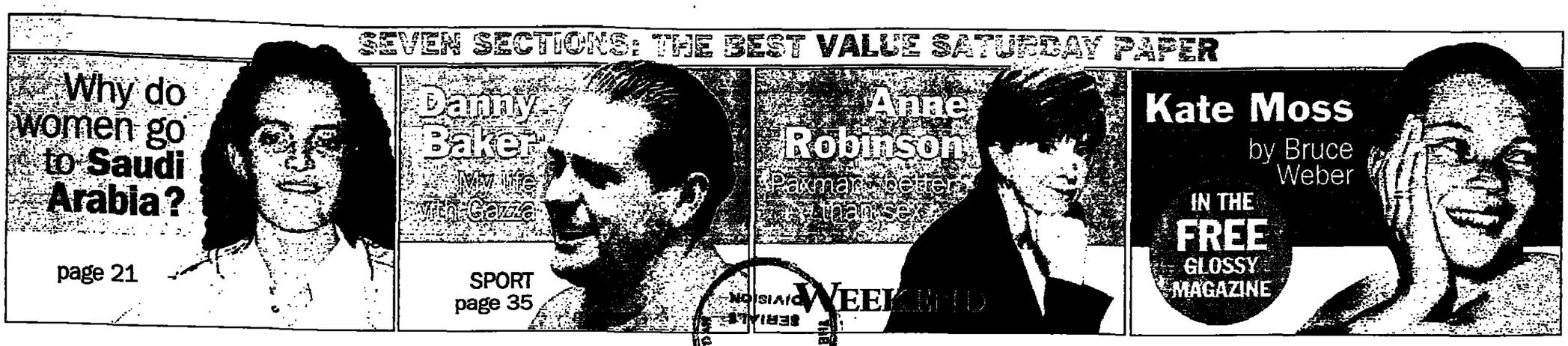
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THE TIMES 50P

No. 66,209 SATURDAY MAY 23 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Massive turnout bolsters Yes vote on Ulster

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND AUDREY MAGEE

VOTERS in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic flocked to the polls yesterday to give the Good Friday peace agreement their overwhelming backing.

Unionists were predicting that with the turnout reaching 90 per cent in some areas, there would be a two-thirds majority in favour of the deal.

"I think we are on a roll," John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said. "I am now hopeful we will get more than a 65 per cent vote. Anything above that will definitely confirm a majority of Roman Catholics and the majority of Protestants have voted Yes."

Sydney Elliott, an electoral expert at Queen's University in Belfast, went better than that, predicting an overall majority of at least 70 per cent. He believed the huge turnout would be good for the Yes camp "because it probably means is they have managed to get some of their target audience out — the young vote and women".

Pat Bradley, the Province's chief electoral officer, described interest in the poll as *quite extraordinary. Queues* had formed at many polling stations before they opened at 7.00 am and the rush continued well into the evening.

The ballot boxes were taken to Belfast overnight and the result will be announced this afternoon. There will be no breakdown of the nationalist and Unionist vote, but David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, can convincingly claim victory if the overall majority exceeds 70 per cent.

That would also give him the authority to take on the rebels in his divided party, including six of his nine MPs, and lean on his constituency parties to select pro-agreement candidates for the June 25 assembly elections.

The Rev Ian Paisley's political future would be less certain. He and other opponents of the agreement stand little chance of winning enough seats in the new assembly to wreck it from within. But when he voted at about 8.00 am, he insisted: "I'm confident that the overwhelming mass of Unionist voters will be voting No."

Reg Empey, the UUP's campaign manager, said that he was encouraged by a particularly high turnout in the predominantly Protestant east of the province where voters are usually apathetic. In many areas the turnout after a few hours was as strong as by the end of a normal election day.

The Prime Minister completed his personal crusade for a Yes vote with a last-minute appeal in full-page articles for *the province's two leading* Catholic and Protestant morning newspapers.

"I urge you to trust me, as your Prime Minister, to deliver what the agreement promises," he wrote. "I urge you to trust yourselves, to seize the opportunities the agreement offers. It is the best chance we have had in years. Seize it."

President Clinton also made an eleventh-hour appeal in a recorded message from the White House. "You can turn the common tragedy of Northern Ireland's past into a shared triumph for the future," he said.

Armed police protected the 1,228 polling stations against republican splinter groups opposed to the deal, but the day passed without incident.

Road to peace, page 2



RICHARD POHLE

Isla Skilton, left, Louise Mitchell and Ruth Talkes *topping up their tans at Bournemouth yesterday. The south should enjoy more sun this weekend. Forecast, page 32*

Viagra check after six die

The global rush to embrace Viagra, the new impotence pill, appeared premature last night as the American Government announced the deaths of six men who had taken the fastest selling prescription drug in history (Tom Rhodes writes).

The Food and Drug Administration and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, the drug's manufacturer, said they had launched investigations into the cause of the deaths to discover whether any of the victims had suffered from heart disease. More than a million people have taken the drug since March.

Springer weighs Mirror deal

The giant German publishing group, Axel Springer, said it was considering making a bid for The Mirror Group, publishers of *The Mirror* and the *Sunday Mirror*. Springer said it was considering a number of opportunities, including *The Mirror*, "which might or might not lead to an offer" ..... **Page 27**

£1m victory for CJD families

At least eight families whose children died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease after treatment with contaminated human growth hormones won a High Court battle yesterday for the right to claim compensation which is expected to exceed £1 *million* ..... **Page 13**

Redknapp out of England squad

Jamie Redknapp, 24, the Liverpool midfield player, is out of the England World Cup squad. He was forced to admit defeat in his battle against a knee injury after *failing a fitness test* yesterday ..... **Page 33**

Tax change threatens stately homes

Knebworth House and Prideaux Place among houses that may have to close or sell off family treasure

BY MARCUS BINNEY AND ANDREW PIERCE

DOZENS of Britain's most famous stately homes may be forced to close their doors or sell off the family treasure because of the withdrawal of an obscure tax concession.

Ministers are coming under intense pressure to rethink the Budget proposal to abolish tax relief on repairs on houses on historic estates, many of which are open to the public.

The maintenance bill for the leading 50 stately and historic homes runs into millions of pounds each year. The annual saving to the Treasury, if the change goes ahead, would be £5 million.

The major houses under threat include Knebworth House in Hertfordshire, where Charles Dickens performed in theatrical events; Levens Hall, Cumbria, with its famed topiary garden; Rockingham Castle, Northamptonshire, which was once once royal property; and moted Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire. The future would also be uncertain for Elizabethan Prideaux Place in Cornwall and Eastnor Castle in Herefordshire.

Ministers were alerted only days ago to the threat posed by the clause in the Finance Bill which is going through Parliament. Speculation was intensifying last night that they were considering a concession which would would maintain the relief but only for homes that opened to the public.

The Association of Historic Houses is lobbying ministers to drop the clause from the Finance Bill or risk the loss of public access to some of Britain's best known estates.

Geoffrey Robinson, the multi-millionaire Paymaster General, who owns two Lutyens mansions, has agreed to consider a deputation from the association.

The so called "one estate election" was introduced in 1963 as a one-off measure to enable expenses on repairs on the principal residence, and unlet properties, on an estate to be tax deductible.

The concession applies to about 400 properties. Only owners who opted for the "one estate election" were eligible for the benefit. The concession has been passed on from generation to generation.

Elton Hall in Cambridgeshire, which is the home of William Proby, the Historic Houses Association president, also faces a fight for survival. Mr Proby said: "If historic house owners lose this vital clause they will either have to sell up or allow their buildings to decay. What's the point of selling a treasure every year just to pay the running costs?"

Lord Saye and Sele, of Broughton Castle, said: "The one estate election is indispensable for the sensible upkeep of historic houses. If it's scrapped the Government will have to find the money itself."

Peter Prideaux-Brune of Prideaux Place, said: "If the election is abolished more historic houses will fall into the public sector and more chattels will be sold. I look after one small manor house and a large number of farm buildings, including several distinctive Cornish roundhouses. These are roofed in Cornish slate which we couldn't possibly afford without the election."

Michael Saunders Watson of Rockingham Castle added: "The one estate election allows us to maintain not only the castle but 45 very pretty stone cottages in the village, dating from 1680, which are all let to local people."

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, the Tory MP for Cotswold, is leading the campaign for a Government rethink. "Unless the Government thinks again, some of the great homes of Britain will be withdrawn from public view," he said.

Letters, page 23

Saudi envoy mocks 'Hollywood' BBC

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Saudi Arabian Ambassador yesterday dismissed a BBC *Panorama* programme about Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry as a "Hollywood production".

Dr Ghazi Algosaibi said John Ware, who researched and presented the programme, should be producing detective thrillers and that the actors and actresses who appeared *should be nominated* for "minor comedy awards".

But the BBC defended the programme, which reconstructed the nurses' accounts of the interrogation techniques the Saudi police allegedly used on them before they confessed to the murder of a fellow nurse. A spokeswoman said that Mr Ware had never claimed to be presenting fact, *merely the women's accounts.* However, two experts who appeared described the confessions as full of "twaddle" and that concluded they had been dictated.

Dr Algosaibi said of Mr Ware: "I take the liberty of advising him before he embarks on his next detective epic to know that most elementary ingredient of detective work: motive." He added of the women, who returned home *on Thursday* after being pardoned by King Fahd: "Gratitude is not an essential part of the criminal mind but no, [we have] no regrets."

The two women now seem to be distancing themselves from each other. Parry said of their parting at Gatwick: "I just said goodbye and she said 'see you again sometime' — but I doubt I ever will."

Valerie Grove, page 21

Aitken: I did not say I was a spy

JONATHAN AITKEN has denied telling police that he lied to a court over who paid his Paris Ritz bill because it was in the national interest.

The claim was reported in *The Daily Telegraph* on Thursday. Lord Pearson of Rannoch, a close friend of Mr Aitken, suggested that Mr Aitken was a secret government intermediary passing on intelligence about Iran to Saudi Arabia. Mr Aitken has been charged with perverting the course of justice.

In a letter in today's *Times*, the former Conservative Cabinet minister writes: "Regarding your headline: 'Aitken will say he lied for Britain.' I would like to make it clear that I did not say this. Moreover I have never suggested, nor will I ever suggest, that I told a lie on *oath in my libel action against The Guardian.*" ..... **Page 23**

Fake soldier and the mother of all excuses

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THIS is the story of a condom-machine salesman with a degree *in Chinese from* Harvard who impersonated a military policeman in an attempt to get his mother off a motoring charge. John Redwood makes an appearance. It does not end happily.

Gloria Havenhand, a Tory local party chairwoman, had been stopped by police and accused of speeding. Her son, Giles Norton, whose family sells condom machines to pubs, marched into a police station in uniform and announced he was Captain Crispin Cashmore from the military police and that Mrs Havenhand was immune from prosecution because she was on a clandestine mission for him.

Things started to go wrong when an ex-Army civilian worker became suspicious famous Red Cap. When officers checked with the headquarters of the Royal Military Police, they found that the captain did not exist.

Yesterday Norton, 22, was found guilty of obstructing police. Magistrates in Sheffield considered apparent character references from John Redwood, the former Conservative minister, and staff at Rugby School, where Norton was a pupil. they fined him £600 with £200 costs. He was also convicted for the possession of two CS gas canisters, one of which was hidden in his sock and the other found in his P-reg Range Rover.

The defence said that Norton carried the gas canisters because of fears of muggings or robberies, and that he was intelligent man who had not yet found an outlet worthy of his intelligence. The role of the military policeman had been an exercise in intellectual curiosity.

Carole Henry, for the prosecution, told the magistrates that on October 1 last year Mrs Havenhand was stopped by police in Sheffield while driving her silver Mercedes saloon, personalised registration number 28 GLO.

Mrs Havenhand, a member of the Tory opposition on Chesterfield council for 10 years until 1993, was accused of driving at 50mph in a suburban road restricted to 30 mph. Miss Henry said: "Later the same day, Captain Crispin Cashmore of the Royal Military Police telephoned the police and said that the driver was working under his orders and involved on military duty, and as a result suggested she was exempt under specific traffic regulations from being prosecuted."

There was a second call and then, on October 20, an Army officer turned up in person. "The man claiming to be Captain



Gloria Havenhand: "clandestine mission"



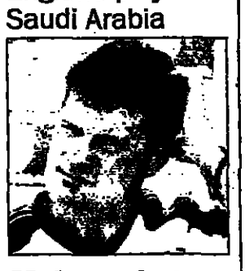


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THE TIMES
30p every weekday

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Under the skin of sport
on 16 pages
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Hoddle's winners and losers as England play Saudi Arabia



Motor racing
Monaco Grand Prix
Cricket The Texaco Trophy

Plus
Giles Coren on **Desmond Lynam**, the face of the BBC's World Cup

TUESDAY
Arts Richard Morrison on the people's arts festivals

WEDNESDAY
Inter//face
Kids, computers and the schools of the future
Plus Crème

THURSDAY
Films
Maggie Smith and Albert Finney in Washington Square



FRIDAY
Rock and Pop
Are record labels out of date?

SATURDAY
in the Magazine



Birds, booze and football
Rod Stewart, the ultimate lad

Yesterday's choice was between clinging to old certainties or taking a leap of faith

MARTIN McCULLOUGH

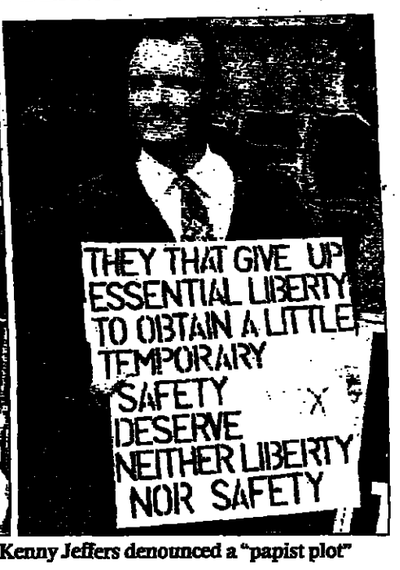


A queue building up yesterday at a Belfast polling station as voters cast their votes in the referendum. At each polling station around the Province armed policemen in bullet-proof vests stood guard

A grieving people looks to the future

Martin Fletcher travels the long road to peace in Northern Ireland





"I have seen too much grief," said Yes voter Ruth Rogers. No voter Kenny Jeffers denounced a "papist plot"

DRIVING round Northern Ireland yesterday was a bittersweet experience. The countryside was at its prettiest, the rolling green hills lit up by yellow gorse, but there was scarcely a town or village that had not been blighted by the violence of the past 30 years.

People were flocking to their polling stations, most desperately hoping the agreement would mean a new, more peaceful era for their province, but few expressed much confidence that it would.

At each polling station armed policemen in bullet-proof vests stood guard, their very presence betraying the fragility of the current peace.

Even in small country lanes there were Yes and No posters tied to the telephone poles. On the car radio, the BBC Radio Ulster disc jockey urged his listeners: "You have one thing to do today. Get out and vote."

Northern Ireland has a population the size of Hampshire's, *but its struggle to put* its past behind it has captured the world's attention.

"I have seen too much grief, too many families suffer. There's got to be a way forward out of this," said Ruth Rogers, *as she and her two* young children left a polling station in Hillsborough, a picture-postcard village in County Down, whose castle is the Northern Ireland Secretary's official residence.

Mrs Rogers has worked for the past 12 years as a nurse in the casualty department of Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital, dealing with the victims of the Troubles. "We've had 'peace' before, but the shootings and beatings went on," she said. "I'm very wary of what peace means. I'm worried about the IRA but you've got to give them some leeway in the hope they're being truthful."

In Lisburn, the heavily-protected Country Antrim town *that hosts the Army's* headquarters, a dozen people were already waiting to vote *when the polling station* opened at 7.00am.

Linda Ballard, a pregnant civil servant with two young children, voted Yes for the sake of her young family, but remains intensely distrustful of the IRA. "I'm sceptical of whether or not they will make it work, but you've got to give them a chance," she said. "As Gerry Adams says, 'they've not gone away'. I can never get that statement out of my mind and the smile on his face as he said it."

Further west, in the village of Moira, the polling station was a mere stone's throw from the rubble of a police station destroyed by a republican car bomb three months ago. The surrounding houses are still boarded up. "It's been Yes, No, Yes, No all week," confessed one woman as she *arrived to vote.*

She had no doubt the bomb was the work of the IRA, though it was claimed by a splinter group, but she was still inclined to vote Yes "for the sake of the kids and the granchildren. We all have to live in hope". Like so many others in this still-fearful province, she declined to give her name.

In effect, yesterday's choice was between clinging to old certainties, however grim, or taking a leap of faith. Not all were preared to take that leap. On the loyalist Mourneview estate, in the Armagh town of Lurgan, where the IRA executed two policeman last year, the polling station was adjacent to a vivid Loyalist Volunteer Force mural declaring: "Defiant Until Victory".

Edward Lyness — 21, *crewcut and unemployed* — voted No because, "I am never living under the tricolor. I'm not living under Irish rule — no way".

A few miles south Kenny Jeffers, who works in a chicken processing factory, stood outside a polling station in the village of Waringstown clutching a home-made placard that quoted Benjamin Franklin: "They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety".

He called the agreement a monstrous papist plot to take over "the last bastion of Bible-believing Christianity".

Aidan O'Toole voted in favour of the Good Friday peace agreement yesterday. On the night of June 18, 1994, Mr O'Toole was pulling pints in his family's bar in the remote *village of Loughinisland,* County Down, when loyalist gunmen burst in as customers were watching a World Cup match between Ireland and Italy. They opened fire and killed eight Catholics including Barney Green, *at 87 the* oldest victim of the Troubles.

Mr O'Toole was shot in the kidney. He has never worked in the bar again and is now unemployed.

Yesterday, Mr O'Toole said his vote was more in hope than expectation. "Everything is worth a try," he said. "It can't get any worse. I don't want anyone going through what we went through up there. I don't want any more Greysteels or Loughinislands of Shankill Roads".

Judge bars review of soldiers' sentences

BY AUDREY MAGEE AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TWO Scots Guards serving life imprisonment in Northern Ireland for murdering an unarmed Catholic teenager yesterday lost a legal effort to have their sentence reviewed.

James Fisher, 29, and Mark Wright, 24, had been seeking a judicial review of Mo Mowlam's refusal in October to refer their case immediately to the Life Sentence Review Board. Mr Justice Coghlin said there were insufficient grounds for quashing the Northern Ireland Secretary's refusal.

The soldiers' supporters contrasted their case with the Government's promise to *grant early release for terror*ists as part of the Northern Ireland peace agreement.

Fisher, from Ayr, and Wright, from Arbroath, were convicted in 1995 of murdering Peter McBride, 18. They challenged McBride while on patrol in Belfast in September 1992, and he was shot when he tried to run off. The soldiers have been in custody since their arrest in 1992.

Their supporters maintain that they made an error of judgment and should not serve longer sentences than Private Ian Thain and Private Lee Clegg, the only two other soldiers convicted of murder in Northern Ireland. Each served about three years in prison.

Don't charge my mother, she's a spy

continued from page 1

Cashmore attended the police traffic department wearing what seemed to be a military uniform. He made a statement that the accused driver was conducting military surveillance on his behalf and signed a statement. When inquiries were made with the Ministry of Defence, Captain Cashmore had never been heard of."

He had been tumbled after chance meeting with Michael Hodgkinson, a civilian driver at the police station. Mr Hodgkinson was a former member of the Royal Corps of Signals, and had tried to chat to the officer, but Norton avoided conversation. Mr Hodgkinson noticed he was not wearing the MPs' coveted red beret. He told the court: "I know they are very proud of the red berets and caps. It is a big joke that they even wear them in bed, but this bloke wasn't wearing one. I didn't notice any insignia."



Norton: trapped by missing beret

When police arrested Norton, they searched his car and discovered a blue flashing light, identity cards and documents in the name of Crispin Cashmore, as well as the CS gas spray canister. Geoff Flemming, for Norton, said he admitted much of the facts but denied that police investigations had been obstructed. He worked in the family business selling condom machines, had a degree in Chinese from Harvard, and was "an intelligent, well-educated man who has not yet found an outlet for his intelligence".

HE added: "He was motivated by filial duty and took steps to try and prevent his mother from being prosecuted. He was trying to protect his mother from prosecution, which is not a dishonourable thing to do."

Tom Stevenson, the presiding magistrate, said: "We are not impressed by what we have heard."

Last night at the family's 17th century country home Troway Hall, at Troway, near Sheffield, but no one was prepared to comment. A spokesman for Rugby School confirmed that Norton had been a pupil there between 1989 and 1994, but had not "achieved any great status". Neither Michael Mavor, the headmaster, nor his deputy had written a character reference to the court, but it was possible a current or former member of staff had written in a personal capacity.

Mr Redwood said: "I have no recollection of writing a letter in support of this young man and I am sure I would remember if I had done so, but I cannot immediately check my papers to make absolutely certain.

"I don't recognise this person's name so, if I did write anything, it can not have said very much about him, although I might have met his mother on Conservative party business."

Wholly silent nights as ban on carols is upheld

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A BAN on Christmas carols and hymns in church because it pollutes the purity of worship has been upheld by the Free Church of Scotland.

At a meeting in Edinburgh *yesterday the Free Church* Assembly rejected moves to relax their strict embargo on using anything other than psalms during services. Modernisers in the Church, which is known as the "Wee Frees", had hoped that other traditional forms of worship might be considered to attract new members.

The move comes after a carol service last Christmas at the Bon Accord Free Church in Aberdeen that outraged hard-liners. The Rev Iver Martin, the minister, justified the service saying it had brought in several hundred people who might never have taken time to worship.

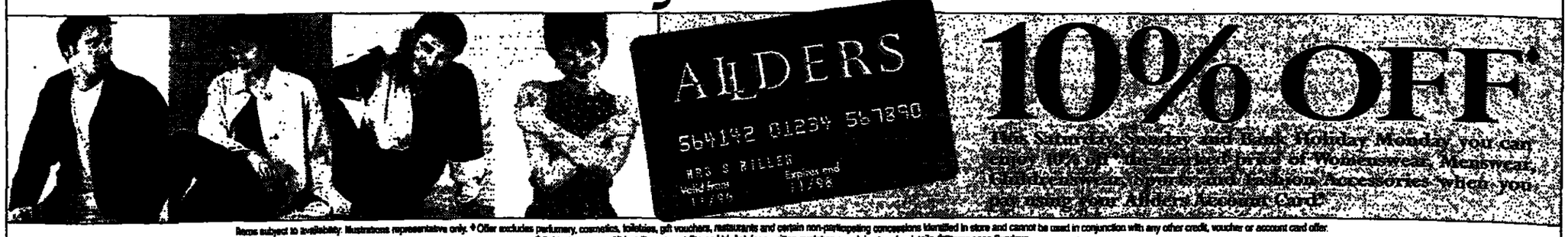
Kenneth Maciver, an elder at Bon Accord, told the assembly: "The Free Church must not vote to shut the door on the thousands of unchurched masses in the cities. All I am asking is a bit of leeway. I am not afraid of God's displeasure for singing carols."

However, the assembly backed the Rev Kenneth Stewart, of Stornoway Free Church, who argued that carol singing crossed the line of purity of worship. He said: "The holding of what we consider to be a carol service would cross that line. We must not use evangelism as an excuse to opt out of our principles of public worship."

The 12,000-strong Wee Frees strictly uphold the sabbath. Women are barred from the ministry. No instruments are allowed in church and the 1647 Westminster Confession of Faith includes the need to discredit "idol worshipping" Catholics.

They are not as strict, however, as the Free Presbyterian Church — the Wee Wee Frees — which last year was moved to restate its position on dancing as having the "stamp of the devil" after a member of the Wee Frees was seen indulging in the activity at a wedding.

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The teenage killer from Shangri-La

Giles Whittell says veiled threats from a troubled 15-year-old failed to ring alarm bells before rampage

LIKE millions of teenagers he had been teased, and briefly in trouble with the law. He was going through a "gothic phase" and told nasty tales of cruelty to animals. Yet his school was peaceful and happy, according to the girlfriend of the boy he killed. His parents were friendly and attentive, and he lived in an idyllic riverside development called Shangri-La.

As Americans struggled to comprehend the latest gun rampage to terrorise a school, those who knew Kipland Kinkel, 15, were agonising yesterday about what might have been avoided had they only believed his veiled threats.

The boy who told friends "it would be fun to kill someone" was arraigned yesterday and charged with murder as an adult, though under Oregon law he cannot receive the death penalty because of his youth.

On Thursday morning, he allegedly shot his parents in cold blood, drove a family car to Springfield's Thurston High School and calmly sprayed a crowd of 400 teenagers with bullets from a semi-automatic rifle. He had been arrested the previous day for firearms possession.

The rampage claimed its fourth victim yesterday when hospital officials said 16-year-old Ben Walker's life-support machine would be turned off. Springfield, a blue-collar logging town, was already mourning Mikael Nickolauson, 17, and hoping for the recovery of 18 other victims, some shot at point-blank range.

Police would not confirm the dead adults in the wood-framed Kinkel home were Kipland's parents, but his shaken grandmother said yesterday: "Kip is my grandson. He murdered his mother and father."

He also left at least two bombs and a hand-grenade as well as bomb-making chemicals and literature in the house. One of the bombs, embedded in a crawl space under the house, was so big that it had to be removed and detonated rather than defused.

By his last year at middle school, the impish, dark-haired Kipland was already raising eyebrows with his talk of bombs and violence. He was voted "most likely to start the Third World War" and later boasted he had killed his cat and blown up a cow. But no-one saw in him the makings of a psychopath. His best friend speculated that the motive for the shootings was the fear that his parents, both Spanish teachers, would be upset by their son's arrest and subsequent explusion the day before for trying to buy a stolen gun on school grounds. "He was worried that it would shame the family, I guess," said Tony McCowan, who spoke to the suspect on Wednesday night.

Another friend said Kipland had been bad-tempered since being "grounded" for the summer by his parents, William, 59, and Faith, 57, for smearing a neighbour's house with toilet paper. Yet another said the troubled teenager was taking Prozac, the anti-depressant drug.

As hundreds of tearful witnesses helped police piece together the bloody sequence of events, descriptions of Kipland's glassy calm were as shocking as the mayhem he unleashed. "He put his foot on the back of one kid and shot him four times," David Willis, 15, said. "His face was casual, like it was something he did every day."

Police, too, described Kipland as "very calm", advising detectives to check the family home as he was arrested. His parents' bodies were found there. His 21-year-old sister, a former national cheerleading competitor, was at college in Hawaii.

For the fifth time in as many months, psychologists and social workers offered explanations for a child's willingness to avenge his demons with murderous gunfire. "Kids aren't born violent; it's learned behaviour," said Ronald Stephens of the National School Safety Centre.

Such platitudes gave parents little reassurance. Kipland's father, recently retired, was described as "wonderful, jolly and joyful", while his mother was apparently the most popular Spanish teacher at another of the town's schools, Springfield High. They had moved to an attractive, rustic home on several wooded acres near the McKenzie River, and enjoyed hiking with their children.

As Springfield's mayor and the headmaster of Thurston High passed on President Clinton's condolences, Republicans condemned Hollywood's love affair with violence and gun-control activists called for sweeping new restrictions. In Springfield, a hunting town, such calls are unlikely to be welcome. Blame for the shooting was being pinned squarely on Kipland yesterday, and on officials who freed him after his arrest on Wednesday.

"He had said something about coming back to do something stupid," David Willis said. "If [the police] knew him, I think they would have kept him in jail."

☐ Three boys in Missouri were plotting to kill fellow classmates on the last day of school in a sniper attack during a false fire alarm, police said.

The plan — apparently modelled on a recent ambush at a school in Jonesboro, Arkansas, that left five dead — was uncovered by police when they responded to a fight at Becky-David Elementary School in rural St Charles County on Thursday.


AP

Kipland Kinkel, pictured on a family holiday, is alleged to have shot dead his parents William and Faith



Students mourn their classmates at the school

British film-makers do double-take on Wilde

Dalya Alberge reports from Cannes on two rival screen versions of An Ideal Husband

TWO British film companies have discovered to their horror that they are in a race to release rival adaptations of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. Both are shooting this summer — aiming for a premiere by the end of the year — and each has an all-star line-up of British actors.

One production, by Wilde Films and Scorpio Productions, stars James Wilby, Sadie Frost, Jonathan Firth and Prunella Scales. The other, by Fragile Films Company, offers Minnie Driver, Cate Blanchett, Rupert Everett and Gabriel Byrne. Their respective producers spoke of their initial alarm and disappointment at the discovery, but insisted that there was room for two.

The 1895 play is one of Wilde's most popular social satires. An acclaimed production by Sir Peter Hall is playing in the West End, and others are playing in Paris and Broadway; it was also filmed in 1947 by Alexander Korda. The attraction for both companies was that the play's issues were still relevant. It is the story of corruption, private honour and human weakness, and concerns a politician, Robert Chiltern, who appears to be a pillar of society until his past — including the selling of a state secret — catches up with him.

Wilde-Scorpio have got a slight head start, having begun shooting the film at Pinewood Studios under the direction of Bill Cartlidge, the producer of films such as *Educating Rita*. The other, financed by Mel Gibson's Icon Entertainment, is only a few weeks away.

Barnaby Thompson, Fragile's producer, said that it was a period piece, while the other had a modern setting. The scale, he stressed, was different. He recalled how he had been inspired by Sir Peter Hall's production, which reminded him that Wilde was not only modern but "laugh-out-loud funny".

Zygi Kamasa, producer with Scorpio and whose credits include *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, said that the play had never lost its insight into the moral minefields of political life.

He said: "In this production, Wilde's original text has been retained. However, as well as making the setting 1990s Britain, the focus of the story has been moved from London to apply to the local politics of the British shires.

"In light of the recent 'cash for questions' scandals, *An Ideal Husband*'s exploration of blackmail, honour and political principles has an obvious resonance, and highlights how little 'society' life has changed in the past 100 years."

☐ The director of *Velvet Goldmine*, the controversial movie starring Ewan McGregor about the glam-rock era, yesterday confirmed that David Bowie — the pop star who is believed to be the inspiration for the film — had refused to allow six of his songs to be used. Todd Haynes said that Bowie apparently had plans to use the songs from his Ziggy Stardust album for his own project.



Driver, left, and Frost star in rival versions of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

Lynch mob of teenage girls kills theft suspect in street

BY RUSSELL JENKINS AND ADAM FRESCO

A MOB of teenage girls chased a man from his home and left him dying in the street from a stab wound.

Stephen Mills, 35, was driven out of his home by up to 13 of the girls and three men, who began pounding on his back door late on Wednesday night. They smashed his windows and attacked a car that was parked in his drive.

Mills fled to his sister's house, on the same estate in Monsall, Manchester, and asked her to ring the police. As she did so he returned to his vigilantes and chased through the estate.

When the mob caught him he was punched and kicked about the head and body and was stabbed twice with the knife, one of the wounds puncturing his lung.

Mr Mills, who police say is believed to have carried out a number of burglaries but did not have a criminal record, managed to get free and ran on to a road to try to get help from members of the public. He was chased again, surrounded and finally collapsed as the mob beat him about the head before making off.

Detective Superintendent David Brown said yesterday that a teenage girl, aged around 17, had been seen kneeling over the dying man and screaming at him. "The group then walked off leaving Stephen dying in the street. This must weigh on the conscience of the people who were there and watched this."

Police are understood to be working on the theory that Mr Mills' attackers believed he was responsible for a series of break-ins in the area.

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Class sizes rise again despite Labour pledge

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CLASS sizes have risen to their highest for more than 30 years, according to official figures published yesterday. They cast a shadow over ministers' promises of smaller teaching groups in the early years of schooling.

More than a third of primary school pupils were in classes of at least 31 when the annual census was taken in January. Numbers rose even in the age groups covered by Labour's election pledge. The rise left 1.4 million children in classes of more than 30 pupils, compared with 1.3 million last year. Seven to ten-year-olds were in the largest teaching groups, with 40 per cent of pupils in classes of more than 30, but even in secondary schools the proportion in classes of over 30 was almost 10 per cent.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, insisted that the Government would still meet its target of restricting classes to 30 pupils up to the age of 7 by 2001. "We can guarantee that this is the final chapter in the saga of ever-rising infant class sizes," he said.

The increase was less than a quarter of the previous year's, and £62 million targeted directly at reducing infant class sizes would flow into schools from September, benefiting 100,000 children. The new money would provide 600 new classrooms and pay for 1,500 extra teachers.

By 2001, funding earmarked for reducing class sizes, transferred from the phasing out of the Assisted Places Scheme in independent schools, will top £100 million. Mr Byers said the current increase was the result of money allocated to local authorities under the last administration, in November 1996. Although ministers have three years to deliver their promise, the timing of yesterday's figures was embarrassing for the Government, coming the day after the announcement of longer health service waiting lists.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said: "Unless the Government takes urgent action, including more funding, another of Labour's early pledges will bite the dust."

Angela Browning, the Conservative schools spokeswoman, said: "Labour's answer to class sizes was to scrap the Assisted Places Scheme, but it now seems they cared more about denying less well-off pupils the choice of a private education than actually reducing class sizes. It now seems that The only way Labour will meet its pledge by 2001 is by forcing pupils into classes that have fewer than 30 pupils. This will mean substantial restrictions in choice for many parents and pupils."

The statistics showed the average size of classes for five, six and seven-year-olds rising from 26.9 in January 1997 to 27.1. Between seven and 11, the average rose from 28.1 to 28.3 pupils.

The figures also provided further evidence of the teacher recruitment difficulties. Vacancies in all state schools rose from 1,814 in January 1997 to 2,359 this year.

Progress towards the Government's target will be helped by a fall in the number of children starting school in England over the next three years. By 2001, there will be 100,000 fewer pupils between the ages of 5 and 7 than there are this year.

DOUG MARKE



Pupils at Deer Park School, Derbyshire, which achieves good results, but where class sizes rose as high as 38 last year

ADDING UP THE NUMBERS

	1988	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Primary	23.5	28.2	29.6	31.8	33.4	34.8
Secondary	7.4	7.8	7.4	8.5	8.7	9.9
				1996	1997	1998
Nursery				27.3	26.5	29.8
Infants (5-7)				27.5	29	29.3
Juniors (8-11)				36	37.9	39.9

Percentage of pupils in classes of more than 30 children

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former PC is jailed for rape

A former policeman was jailed for four years yesterday for rape. Michael Figgins, 38, of Carmarthen, met the 33-year-old woman through a lonely hearts column in a local newspaper, Swansea Crown Court was told. However, when they separated after a row, Figgins refused to accept that the relationship was over. The woman said that he turned up daily at her home and attacked her there in February. Figgins had denied the charge.

£2m for Sudan

A public appeal to pay for supplies to avert famine in Sudan raised £1.97 million in 24 hours, the Disasters Emergency Committee said. The appeal will continue for another fortnight.

Magazine, page 28

Force's sex bias

Inspector Shirley Daniel was prevented from applying for a chief inspector's job with Warwickshire police because she was a woman, a Birmingham industrial tribunal ruled. It was adjourned so that compensation could be settled.

Pilot blamed

An RAF report has ruled that the pilot of a Jaguar jet which ditched into the sea caused the crash by turning off the wrong engine. The pilot was badly hurt when he ejected shortly after take-off at RAF Lossiemouth in 1996.

Pregnancy alert

Health officials are contacting 21 women who had sterilisations at the Pembury Hospital in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, after two others became pregnant. The operations were all by the same doctor, who is longer at the hospital.

'Sizeism' claim

A 15-stone American woman who said she was thrown out of Harrods because of her size has begun a High Court action against the store. Eilene Kadden, 48, has issued a writ seeking damages for slander and wrongful arrest.

Big cat hunted

A junior school in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, has been closed for two days while police try to track a big cat — thought to be a lynx — that has been seen by teachers and parents roaming fields in the area.

Natural selection

A woman who paid 50p for a first edition copy of Darwin's 1859 *Origin of Species* at a church fête saw it auctioned for £11,600. Kathy Bickerstaff, who runs a guesthouse near Minehead, had no idea of its value until a guest spotted it.

Election promises are still to be kept

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE rise in classroom sizes is the third setback in five days to Labour's election promises printed on "pledge cards".

The first was inflation reaching 4 per cent, a six-year high. Labour's early election pledge was a commitment to low inflation and low interest rates. Interest rates have gone up five times since the election and the Government has missed its inflation target in 11 of the last 12 months.

On hospital waiting lists the commitment is a 100,000 reduction within the lifetime of the Parliament. On Thursday it was announced lists had grown by 35,000, up 150,000 since the election.

Labour guaranteed that five-, six- and seven-year-olds would be taught in classes with no more than 30 pupils. There are now 53,000 more children in overcrowded classrooms than a year ago.

On fast access to justice for young offenders, the Government has indicated there will be no progress until next year.

On its commitment to remove 250,000 young people off benefit and into work through Welfare to Work the Government's success is less easy to quantify. At the election there were no longer 250,000 youngsters on the dole.

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THE TIMES — Get se

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Drivers told to stay off the roads on Monday

By Michael ...

THE ... last night ... stay at ... the Bank ... began ... Heavy ... on all ... London ... M25 ... ed. Other ... the Mot... chester. ... Birmingham ... Doncaster ... The ... business ... million ... roads ... of the ... peratures ... would be ... sunny, ... would be ... at 8C to ... An AA ... the traffic ... Bank Holiday ... people return ... encounter ... their way ... ping centre ... 10,000 car ... weather ... biggest hold... around bi... es such ... Sheffield, ... Gateshead ... Lakeside ...

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Get set, Go: airline fares war takes off

BA is accused of predatory pricing over cut-price subsidiary, report

Nicholas Wood and Arthur Leathley

THE airline price war took off yesterday with the first flight of Go, British Airways' new low-cost airline. About 150 passengers paid £100 return to fly from Stansted, Essex, to Rome.

But BA's entry into the competitive but expanding budget market — which serves up to 10 million passengers a year — was clouded by claims from smaller rivals that its predatory pricing is intended to drive them out of business.

Five airlines have cut profit margins to the bone, or are even prepared to lose money in the short term, to win a share of the "low-fare" market — the fastest-growing sector in British air travel.

Fares as low as £29.99 into Europe are being offered to attract passengers to a "no-frills" sector that has cut out complimentary drinks and food and other traditional extras to slash prices.

Bargain-hunters have never had such a range of destinations available, with more than 30 European cities on offer. Examples include £123 return to Madrid, £68 return to Edinburgh, £129 return to Venice and £92 return to Barcelona.

But many offers are hedged around with restrictions and often few seats are available at the lowest prices. For example, although airlines proclaim return fares to Rome beginning at just under £100, the reality is that many of the bargain seats are rapidly taken, leaving passengers facing supposedly low-fares of up to £229 or having to connect with a second flight.

In some cases, as few as 30 seats on an aircraft seating more than 150 are available at advertised low prices and have to be booked at least 21 days in advance.

In addition, there are drawbacks in the lack of flexibility on some routes compared with full-price scheduled services. Some fares are non-refundable, while additional charges are sometimes made for changes to travel arrangements. EasyJet, for example, charges £10 for making a change to its cheap flights. Another disadvantage is that some low-cost flights are to secondary airports, leading to long and sometimes expensive journeys to city centres.

Although the market is expanding at a huge rate, there are doubts whether there will be enough passengers to support the five airlines offering low-cost fares. Industry speculation suggests that at least one will be forced out of business or into a merger.

The airlines leading the no-frills crusade are Ryanair, the pioneers of the British low-fare market, easyJet, Debonair, Virgin Express and Go, the British Airways subsidiary.

Yesterday, easyJet, which is taking legal action against the national flag carrier on the ground that it is abusing its dominant market position, tried to steal the limelight from Go's first flight.

EasyJet's chairman, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, was among the passengers on the Rome flight. He was accompanied by six easyJet staff dressed in the airline's distinctive orange uniforms.

Mr Haji-Ioannou said: "Go has been given permission by BA to lose £29 million and then close in three years, having put its rivals out of business. You only have to look at BA's track record to see how predatory they are."

But Barbara Cassani, chief executive of Go, denied that the company had been set up merely to drive other no-frills rivals from the field.

Richard Branson, whose Virgin Express group is among the five leading players in the low-cost market, leapt into the fray by accusing BA of subsidising its new no-frills service.

He claimed that, for the four airlines already in the market and about to face the might of British Airways, the impending struggle is akin to "a bleeding competition against a blood bank".

Go passengers will get refreshments on flights — but have to pay for them.

All the rival firms have managed to reduce costs heavily through using airports that have much lower charges than Gatwick and Heathrow, although Virgin Express has flights to Brussels from both.

Luton and Stansted airports have become the main battleground of the low-cost carriers, although Ryanair and easyJet also use other regional and Scottish airports.



EasyJet chairman Stelios Haji-Ioannou with Go's Barbara Cassani yesterday

CUT-PRICE FARES COMPARED

Destinations	Prices	Restrictions
Debonair, from Luton		
Barcelona, Madrid, Dusseldorf, Munich, Nice, Rome.	From £82.90 to Dusseldorf to £123 to Madrid.	Up to 40 seats at the cheapest rates are available on 98-seater aircraft. Some cheap flights require a midweek flight, with a Saturday stopover.
easyJet, from Luton and Liverpool		
Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Amsterdam, Nice, Geneva, Barcelona, Palma, Majorca.	From £68 to Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow to £110.70 to Nice. *From Liverpool:* Amsterdam £71.20, Nice £112.70	Number of cheapest seats is not disclosed. Bookings are made direct with airline and confirmed with credit card on departure, and can be transferred to another flight for a £10 fee.
Go, from Stansted		
Rome, Milan and, from June 5, Copenhagen.	All seats initially £100 return including taxes, although fares will increase next month, when new destinations will be added.	All bookings are direct and not through travel agencies. Bookings cannot be changed.
Ryanair, from Stansted and Luton		
Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Knock, Glasgow (Prestwick), Carcassonne, St Etienne, Pisa, Rimini, Venice, Kristianstad (Malmo), Oslo, Stockholm.	From £68 to Glasgow to £129 for Pisa, Rimini and Venice. One-way tickets to Dublin from Luton and Stansted on selected flights £29.99 including airport tax.	Half the seats are sold at lowest prices and tickets can be transferred between flights. No seat reservations.
Virgin Express from Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted		
Nice, Barcelona, Madrid, Milan, Rome, Copenhagen.	From £92 to Barcelona and Madrid, to £101 for Copenhagen. Special offer price of £39 plus airport tax for one-way journeys.	All journeys require aircraft change at Brussels, with one-hour wait. First 30 seats at cheapest fare, have to be booked at least 21 days ahead of travel.

Drivers told to stay off the roads on Monday

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Automobile Association last night advised people to stay at home on Monday as the Bank Holiday weekend began at crawling pace.

Heavy traffic was reported on all the major roads out of London, with the M1 and the M25 particularly badly affected. Other troublespots were the M60 in Greater Manchester, the M6 near Birmingham and the A1 near Doncaster.

The weekend, one of the busiest of the year, with ten million cars taking to the roads, coincided with the end of the unseasonal high temperatures. Forecasters said it would be mainly dry and sunny, but that temperatures would be more typical of May, at 15C to 18C (59F to 64F).

An AA spokesman said that the traffic would be worse on Bank Holiday Monday, when people returning home would encounter day-trippers on their way to out-of-town shopping centres and some of the 10,000 car boot sales. If the weather remained cool, the biggest hold-ups would be around big shopping complexes such as Meadowhall in Sheffield, the Metro Centre in Gateshead, and Thurrock Lakeside in Essex.

RSPCA cuts up over pub contest to shear sheep

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE landlord of an Australian theme pub has outraged animal welfare campaigners by planning to stage a sheep-shearing competition.

Sheep will be herded six at a time into the Roo Bar where regulars will compete to be fastest shearer.

The RSPCA said last night that competitors could face prosecution for cruelty if the animals are injured or become distressed. A spokeswoman said: "A pub is not an appropriate place to shear sheep and with all the noise and heat, there is a danger of causing injury. It would be the person shearing and not the organiser who would be liable for prosecution."

Sam Amso, 23, assistant manager of the pub in Clifton, Bristol, said the best shearer would win 18 bottles of lager. The stunt, to mark the first birthday of the boomerang-shaped bar, will take place on Monday and Tuesday nights, closely monitored by an RSPCA inspector.

He added: "It will not be cruel to the sheep. We will have sheep handlers in the bar to make sure it all goes smoothly. We will not allow anyone who is too drunk to take part."

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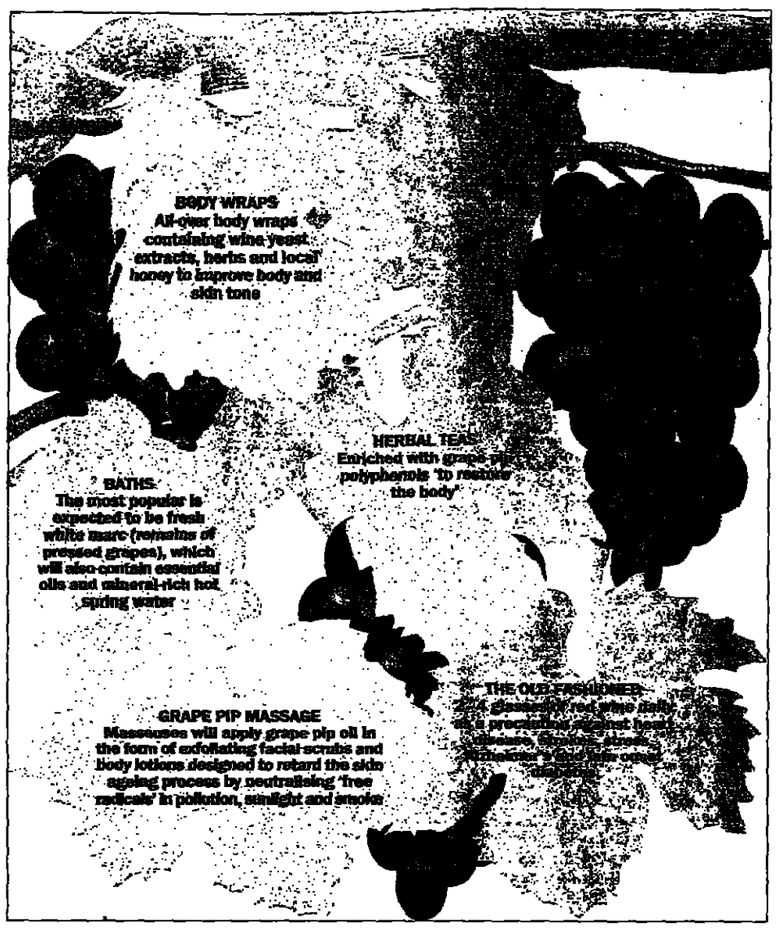
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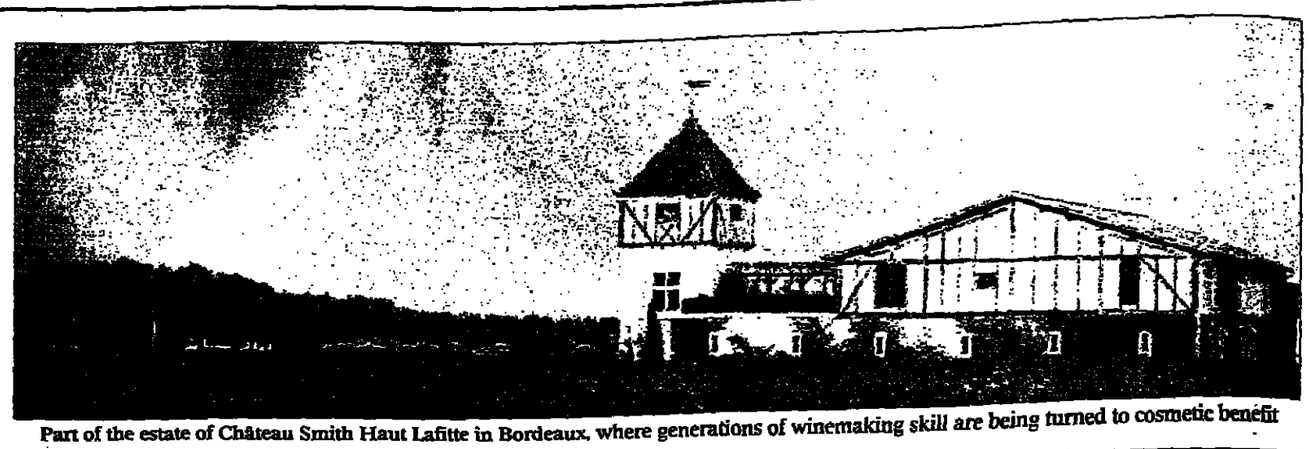
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Part of the estate of Château Smith Haut Lafitte in Bordeaux, where generations of winemaking skill are being turned to cosmetic benefit

Beauty is skin-deep on a skinful of claret


Adjani: beneficial use

Improve your looks by becoming a soak, Ben Macintyre writes

There was a time when one went to a spartan clinic to be weaned off the bottle, but now comes an altogether more alluring health spa, devoted entirely to the life-enhancing and anti-ageing qualities of French wine.

In the midst of the vineyards of Château Smith Haut Lafitte, one of the most revered wine labels in Bordeaux, the wealthy Cathiard family is constructing the world's first "wine spa" — a health resort where visitors will not only be encouraged to drink wine, but also to soak in it, wrap up in it, and smear it on themselves in various pleasant forms.

The principles of vinotherapie are simple and, in many cases, delicious. Wine, in moderation, is good for you, the Cathiards insist, while the by-products of viniculture have been shown to be effective health and beauty aids, most notably in the form of polyphenols, the anti-ageing substance in grape pips.

Daniel and Florence Cathiard purchased the run-down Château Smith Haut Lafitte (partially named after an 18th-century Scottish trader) from George Walker, the former British boxer and businessman, in 1990 for £22 million, and three years ago their daughter, Mathilde, now 26, launched a range of beauty and health products using polyphenols extracted from the grape pips left over from her father's wine production.

Her range of creams, scrubs and unguents were given the name *Caudalie* — an obscure wine-tasting term for measuring a wine's aftertaste in the mouth — and the company has since reached an annual turnover of £20 million. Even the French film actress Isabelle Adjani is on record as using the grape pip-based creams.

On the back of that success, the family has launched an even more ambitious, £5 million-project to build a four-star hotel and health centre dedicated to wine, its by-products, effects and side-effects.

"Les Sources de Caudalie" will open in June 1999, offering 29 rooms and suites, a restaurant presided over by a Michelin two-star chef, a 10,000-bottle wine cellar and, most importantly, the "vinotherapie clinic" under the direction of two doctors — Yves Treguer, a heart specialist, and Bernard Hertzog, a dermatologist.

The makers of *Caudalie* claim that stabilised grape-seed polyphenols can lower by some 85 per cent the effect of "free radicals", the oxidising agents generated by sun, pollution and cigarette smoke that beauticians believe are the primary cause of prematurely-aging skin.

What has yet to be established is whether pips from a Château Smith Haut Lafitte are any better at fighting wrinkles than those from a humble *vin de table*. "It takes an entire tonne of grape pips to produce just one kilogram of polyphenols," according to Florence Cathiard, the châtelaine of Smith Haut Lafitte and a good advertisement for her daughter's products. She is in her mid-fifties, but looks about 35 years old.

Wine is recommended as a health tonic in the Bible — "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (1 Timothy v, 23). However, it was not until the present decade that scientists discovered that the answer to the "French Paradox" — the conundrum of a nation with a high-fat diet and low incidence of heart disease — probably lay in red wine.

As Dr Thomas Stuttaford has written in *The Times*, the flavenoids (anti-oxidants) in red wine not only combat artery and heart disease, but in regular doses may prevent strokes, cut stress, and discourage late onset diabetes and Alzheimer's disease.

Even the most passionate advocate of wine as a health drink emphasises moderation, however, with an optimum "dosage" of between two and four drinks daily, depending on metabolism and the size of your glass. Getting completely "paradoxical" every day is no recipe for good health, even in wine-obsessed Bordeaux.

The Cathiards' *vinotherapie clinic will offer an entire à la carte* wine list of beauty products and health treatments, including grape-pip massages, facial creams and baths of fresh white *marc*, the grape residue after pressing, with a hint of oak — possibly the only bathwater one might be tempted to drink.

"The red wine contains more polyphenols," Mme Cathiard observes thoughtfully. "But then you would come out the colour of claret."



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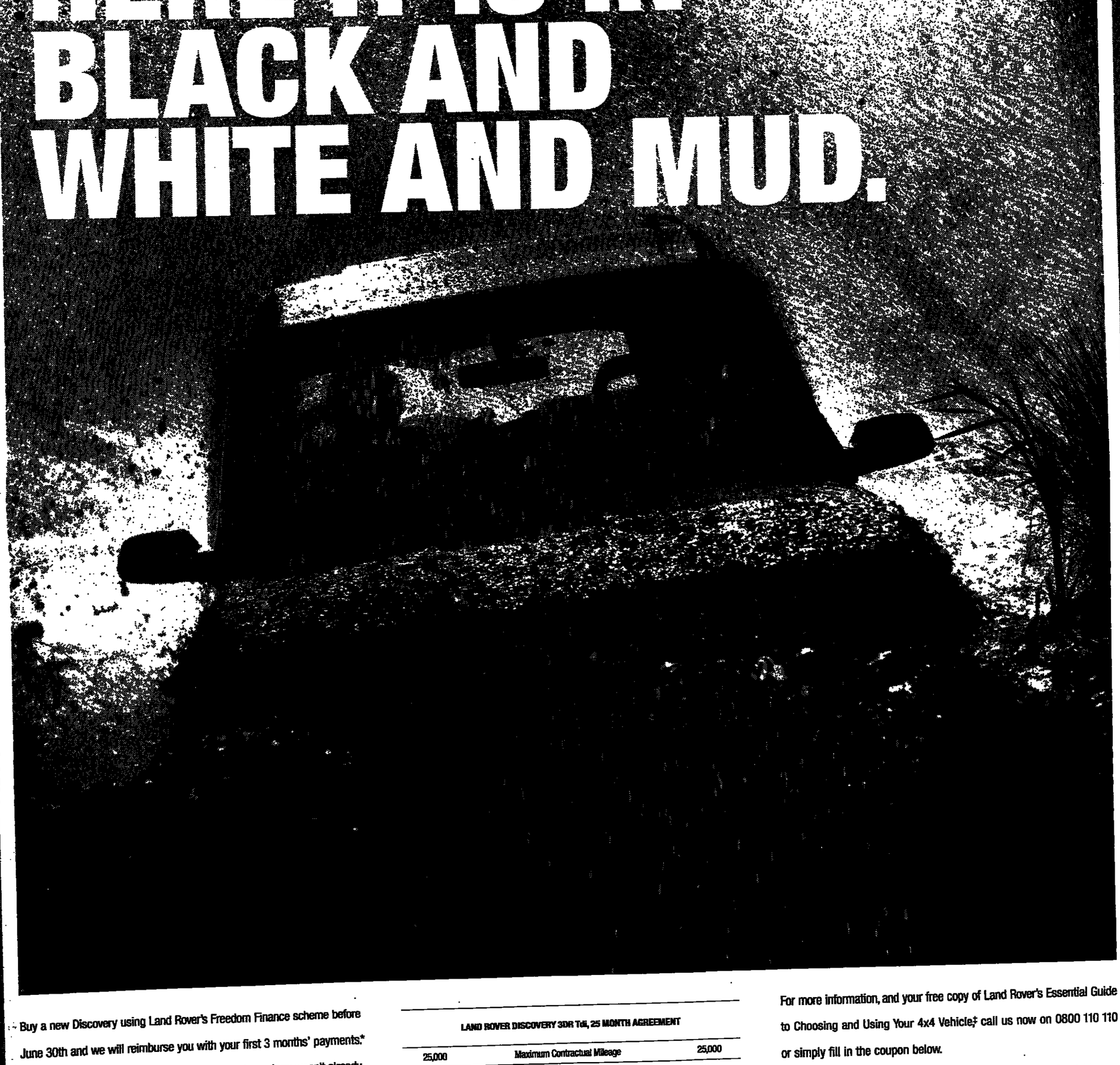
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This week

"He used to be a divine cleric. Now he's a holy terror."

SATURDAY REVIEW. This evening, our weekly arts discussion includes a review of Ardal O'Hanlon's dark new novel. Tom Sutcliffe also looks at the Liverpool Tate, Glyndebourne and BBC1's "The Human Body." Saturday evenings, 7.02 – 7.45.

"A dashing major. A married woman. An officer's mess."

THE CLASSIC SERIAL continues with "Effi Briest", Theodor Fontane's masterpiece of love and passion on the Baltic Coast with a conclusion as bitter as the climate. Sunday afternoons from 24 May, 3.02 – 4.00. Repeated Saturday evenings at 9.02.

"Broken hearts. Robbery. Murder. (And you were looking forward to a quiet bank holiday?)"

THE AFTERNOON PLAY, "The Greengage Summer". Rumer Godden's coming-of-age tale set in France before World War II. Joss falls for the charming Eliot but he ends up stealing more than her heart. Bank holiday Monday afternoon, 2.15 – 3.45.

"Be merciless this Wednesday. Laugh at newsreaders' performances in bed."

THE WAY IT IS. Our new bedtime comedy show takes a satirical look not just at the week's news, but also at how modern news is presented. Spoof newscasters, Richard Richard and vain Lolly Swain, are your hosts for half an hour of fun. Wednesday nights, 11.00 – 11.30.

"Tropical jungles. Parched deserts. Mountains of dirty socks. (Welcome to the real world of our foreign correspondents)."

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. In-depth slices of life from the BBC's 250 foreign correspondents around the world. Kate Adie introduces tales that mix the extraordinary with the everyday. Thursday mornings from 28 May, 11.02 – 11.30. And Saturday mornings, 11.30.

"Lisa l'Anson's lipstick stays on for 28 minutes."

LIPSTICK PLEASURES. Tool of seduction. Call to arms. Key to the executive washroom. Oh, and you put it on every morning. Hear Lisa l'Anson on lipstick and why there's more to this little cosmetic than meets the eye. Friday morning, 29 May, 11.02 – 11.30.

"In some, love inspires poetry. In others, ratatouille."

VEG TALK. Charlie Hicks and Greg Wallace get passionate about greens in a new series featuring chefs, recipes, growing tips and more than a little fun on the side. Friday afternoons from 29 May, 3.02 – 3.30.

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YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

Freud lifts veil on private life

New portrait puts estranged son back in the frame after 24 years, writes Damian Whitworth



Annabel and Rattler, 1997-8, the first painting that visitors to the Lucian Freud exhibition at the Tate, which opens next month, will see

LUCIAN FREUD, generally regarded as Britain's greatest living artist, offers a glimpse into his tangled and fiercely protected private life in a new painting seen for the first time in *The Times* today.

The painter, who is renowned for depicting close friends and family often without disclosing their identities, revealed that the new portrait is of his son, Alex. The two have recently been reunited.

Freud, the grandson of Sigmund Freud, almost never talks about his private life and he shed no light on the cause of the estrangement. He simply said he was delighted to have worked again with "Ali", 41, his son by his former student, Suzy Boyt.

More than 30 years ago, his son appeared as a small boy beneath a huge Freud in the artist's *Reflection with two children (self-portrait)*. In 1974, Alex appeared in another portrait with bunched fists and an assertive presence. A 24-year gap followed. "I've seen very little of him for a long time. I was very pleased to work with him again," Freud told *The Times*.

Now 75, Freud is working as hard as ever on paintings of sometimes brutal honesty. His prodigious output has been matched by an energetic amorous life. Married twice, he has had numerous lovers and an uncertain number of children. The maximum and probably exaggerated estimate puts the total at 40. Among those who are publicly acknowledged are the novelists Rose Boyt and Esther Freud and the fashion designer Bella Freud.

The accounts of his difficult relationships and feuds are legion. At one time it was said that Bella, who like Esther was born to the teacher Bernadine Coverley, was the only one of his children who had his telephone number. Many of his circle have to wait until he calls them.

Freud and his brother, Sir Clement, the former MP, are believed to have uttered not a word to each other in three decades. The split has been said to go back to their childhood, when the two boys raced each other to Green Park. Clement was leading until Lucian shouted "Stop thief" and his brother was apprehended by passers-by.

The soubriquet "the Hermit of Holland Park" is popularly ascribed to Freud. His friends ensure that nothing is revealed about him. "He is very good friends with Ali," said one. "But do not quote me or mention my name." Those who have considered writing about the man rather than the work have met with determined opposition. Last year, the writer Nigel Jones ditched his plans for a biography about the "darker, hidden side ... of the blackest sheep in a distinctly dusky dynastic flock" and went into hiding for five months. He was described by his agent as frightened. He said later: "Wild horses would now not bring me to write a biography of any living person."

But while Freud remains out of sight, his work has never been so popular. Last week his *Large Interior, W11, (After Watteau)* sold for more than £3.5 million — a record for a work by a contemporary British artist.



The Painter's Son, Ali, 1998: fruit of family reunion

Show stealer's naked energy is opposite of passive nude

BY RICHARD CORK

THE *painting that visitors* will confront first at Lucian Freud's Tate Gallery show is one of his most arresting images. Naked and pregnant, a *woman sprawls on* the bed. She seems languorous, even torpid. But her eyes are open, and their gaze is directed at the unseen artist.

When I viewed *this* work in Freud's studio, the iron-frame bed occupied *the same* position near his easel. The proximity of painter and subject helps to account for the picture's charged atmosphere. So *does the fact that* Freud worked obsessively on the canvas over nine months.

This daytime picture takes advantage of the luminosity *falling on the bed from the* skylight. Freud also paints at night, producing images affected by the glare of lightbulbs. Here the mood is *gentler; Rattler the Irish* wolfhound is enjoying a snooze.

Neither the woman nor the wolfhound had posed for Freud before. She is the actress Annabel Mullion, *and has known the artist for* some time. When she told him years ago that she would like to sit for a painting, he replied: "You *must be drunk." Eventually,* though, he asked her to be his model. "I had always assumed she would be naked," Freud told me, "and so did she. It was her *idea to* pose with the dog."

The session went well. **According to Freud, the wolfhound is "crazy and incredibly clumsy. He falls over everything." But Freud has a dog *of his own*, and knows how to handle them.**

No reproduction can convey the texture of Freud's paint. At 75 he exerts a more *absolute command over his* brush than ever. The tousled anarchy of Rattler's hair is superbly expressed by the thick, energetically manipu*lated pigment. For all his* sleepiness, the dog still seems an unruly presence.

Pale against the darkness of the dog, Mullion smiles up at Freud as he charts *every swell and declivity in* her flesh. The more we look at her the less supine she becomes. The hand trapped in her twisted hair hints at *restlessness, even turmoil.* And there is nothing inert about her limbs.

She is the opposite of a traditional passive nude. *Everything about her body finally proclaims an independence of spirit. She* reclines there by choice, not because an authoritarian male painter ordered her to. Although unclothed, she has *no intention of turning* herself simply into an object of desire. Freud conveys her innate energy, bristling beside the slackness of the dozy dog.

Freud remains above all a **painter of the human figure, and among the few living artists able to give convincing new life to the ancient art of portraiture.**

☐ ***Lucian Freud: Some New Paintings, at the Tate June 3-July 26.***

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From the dole to the Dome in time for 2000

ASHLEY COOMBES



Thandi Ojeer, in front of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich, said the charity's help had set her "on the road to doing what I really want to"

12,000 jobless Londoners will have a chance to show off creative talents, reports Mark Henderson

THOUSANDS of young unemployed Londoners are to be given the chance to show off their creative talents in concerts, street festivals and theatrical events throughout the millennium year.

The charity TS²K — Trafalgar Square 2000 — is behind the events which will kick off with a huge new year's party, expected to be held in the Baby Dome, a 6,000-seat annexe, in Greenwich.

As many as 12,000 people aged between 16 and 30 — budding musicians, actors, singers, DJs, dancers, designers and artists — will receive training, free rehearsal space and a chance to work with professionals, in an attempt to turn raw talent into "job-ready" skills. It is hoped that at least a third will find jobs by the end of 2000.

The Millennium Commission has awarded a £3.9 million lottery grant to TS²K, and some of the biggest names in British youth culture will be involved, including MTV, the Ministry of Sound nightclub and the Notting Hill Carnival.

Funding has also been received from the Government Office for London. Sponsors include Camelot, NatWest and the Prince's Trust, and business donations will boost its total budget to nearly £20 million by the end of 2000.

Organisers plan to use profits from shows in the millennium year to pay for a training programme for the young unemployed once the celebrations are over.

TS²K, which takes its name from an original plan to stage a showpiece millennium event in Trafalgar Square, is being backed by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, and the Government's creative industries task force. The New Millennium Experience company is in negotiations about staging the opening event in the Baby Dome in Greenwich.

The new year's party will join London's festivities live by satellite to other celebrations across the time zones from Tonga in the South Pacific to Times Square in New York. Hundreds of young performers and technicians will work alongside professionals from the Ministry of Sound and Global Media, a live broadcast specialist.

Over the next year, TS²K will organise further events, such as a nationwide street arts festival and a gala awards ceremony for youth artistic achievement. The project will also take part in the Thames Festival and the Notting Hill Carnival.

The charity was founded in 1994 and received its lottery grant in April 1997. The first creative enterprise centre opened in Brixton last November. Following a three-week course there, Thandi Ojeer, 22, obtained freelance work with the television companies MTV and Rapture Television. Another Brixton student, Michael Richter, is employed as a sound engineer at the Soul to Soul recording studio in Camden.

Ms Ojeer said: "It was a tremendous opportunity which has set me up on the road to doing what I really want to. Usually, courses like this only last a few days and cost £400, and they aren't as good anyway.

"The staff at the Brixton centre have been wonderful, giving me support even ages after I had finished the course. They're still on hand to help out with interviews and jobs."

Unemployed young people like Ms Ojeer join three-week courses in subjects such as music, television, theatre, and arts administration, which are followed by intensive sessions with a careers adviser and work experience in a suitable creative job.

Trainees can also take advantage of a mentoring programme, which has already singed up Yvonne Brewster, the theatre director. There are opportunities to learn about freelancing and launching a small business, and TS²K staff will offer advice when the programme is over.

Bands, dancers and performance artists can use rehearsal rooms in the centres for free, and learn management as well as artistic skills. Three more centres will open in King's Cross, Hammersmith and Woolwich this year.

Mandy Berry, founder of the project and its corporate affairs director, said it was conceived as an exciting and innovative way to help young unemployed people find the jobs they really want. "More young Londoners say they want to find work in the creative industries than any other field, and there is no reason why they should not succeed," she said.

Mr Smith congratulated the charity on "achieving backing from a wide range of creative industries".

He said: "Developing creative skills brings a new sense of self-esteem and self-confidence. There is no better way of starting a process of social regeneration than this."



Berry: an exciting way to help young people

Padre says army wife tried to sit on his knee

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN ARMY chaplain accused of indecently assaulting a soldier's wife four times in five days suggested yesterday that he could be the victim of a woman scorned.

Captain Richard Landall, 41, told a court martial that he did not know why the 24-year-old woman had made the allegations. But he said that he had twice rejected the woman's attempts to sit on his knee during a social evening.

"Maybe she was trying to come on, and I rebuffed her. It could have been a woman scorned. Maybe she wanted to stitch me up for some reason," he said during evidence on the fifth day of his trial.

Captain Landall, chaplain to the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, denies four charges of indecent assault and two charges of harassment between January and November 1997.

The padre, who separated from his wife in April 1997, said that he would never put his job in jeopardy because it was his life.

Captain Landall, who has been transferred to an administrative unit pending the outcome of the case, fought back tears as he said: "I have been stopped from doing it for over six months. It is the most important thing in my life. I would never jeopardise my vocation in any way."

The judge-advocate yesterday directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty on a charge of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. The court martial,

Killer of suspected paedophile gets life

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who tortured and battered a suspected paedophile to death was jailed for life yesterday. Christopher Broome, 28, was trying to make William Everest confess to sexually assaulting a young girl.

Mr Everest, 52, a security officer, died of multiple organ failure after being attacked with a baseball bat, knives, bottles and forks at his home in Walthamstow, East London. He was scalded with boiling water, wired to a battery charger and had the word "Nonce" cut into the skin on his chest.

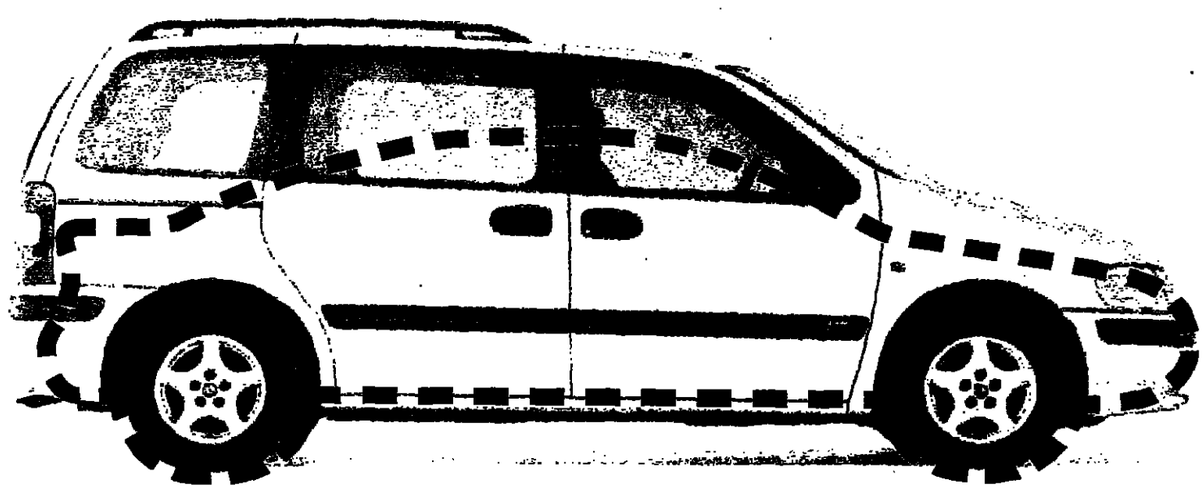
Broome, 28, also from Walthamstow, showed no emotion at the Old Bailey as the jury convicted him of murder. Broome's former girlfriend, Jennifer Walker, 33, was jailed for two years after being convicted of manslaughter. David Spens, QC, defending Walker, said that she had not meant Mr Everest serious injury. Darren Christy, 29, was cleared of murder and manslaughter.

David Waters, for the prosecution, had told the court "we may never know for sure" whether Mr Everest had sexually interfered with the girl. He was thrown down the stairs at his home before being assaulted over a number of hours.

At the end of his ordeal, he managed to crawl from the front door, but died later in hospital. He had cuts in his scalp from a heavy blunt object, and broken ribs, legs and arms. A lung had col-

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It figures – Tussaud's is tourists' favourite

Victorian freak show transforms itself into kiss and tell encounter with famous, says Alan Hamilton



Queues outside Madame Tussaud's, Britain's top admission-charging attraction

KEN LIVINGSTONE. Anneka Rice and Steve Davis are out; Sean Connery, Naomi Campbell and Brad Pitt are in. The waxy but ever-changing face of Madame Tussaud's made it Britain's top admission-charging tourist attraction last year, according to figures issued yesterday by the British Tourist Authority.

The enduring attraction of what is essentially a Victorian fairground freak show, with the added ingredient of huggable heroes, pushed it fractionally ahead of Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire, which topped the table for the previous five years.

Britons, most of whom visited Tussaud's at some stage in their youth, tend to view it as rather tacky, its figures bearing no resemblance to real life, and its Chamber of Horrors a laughable parody of terror. But then few of us have come face to face with the real Queen, the real Nigel Mansell, or the real Beethoven.

"Our appeal is that ordinary people can meet the famous, talk to them, and have their photograph taken with them," a Tussaud's spokeswoman said. Smart marketing has taught Tussaud's to remove the ropes that once protected the wax figures, so that people can now touch them, stand beside them, or even argue with them if the mood takes them. "They can kiss Brad Pitt, strangle Saddam Hussein, or tell Chris Evans he is a terrible disc jockey," the spokeswoman said.

Outside the Baker Street museum, the queues, as ever, stretched round the block yesterday, and endless coaches of continental origin disgorged sightseers prepared to part with £8.95 a head.

A speedy tour of the exhibits showed that there is one far more ghoulish than the Chamber of Horrors. An updated figure of the late Diana, Princess of Wales was surrounded by a vast pack of French schoolchildren, all taking its photograph.

Kurt and Lene Nielson, tourists from Alborg, Denmark, thought that on the whole they had had their money's worth, although they had their reservations. "The figure of our Queen Margrethe is not at all lifelike, and their Elvis Presley is terrible. Michael Jackson and your Blair are much better."

A tableau of Britain's Royal Family, respectfully railed off, was especially hideous, and attracted only passing interest. Staff reckon that the most touchy-feely exhibit, hugged by men and women alike, is Joanna Lumley, given that the dry-cleaning bill for the clothes far outstrips that of other models.

Ever anxious to be up-to-date, staff are wondering who their next exhibit should be. Public demand is for Leonardo diCaprio, the apparently touchable star of *Titanic*. "We have to make sure that a celebrity is going to last a while, as it takes six months and £25,000 to make a model," a Tussaud's insider noted.

Tussaud's admits that it becomes ever more difficult to horrify in the Chamber of Horrors, because children are so used to the nastiness of television. The revamped cellar entertains rather than terrifies.

More than 2.79 million visitors passed through the Tussaud's turnstiles in 1997, which narrowly beats Alton Towers and the Tower of London, and is way ahead of the Natural History Museum, Canterbury Cathedral and Legoland. Nearly all the visitors to Tussaud's yesterday were foreigners: the British are expected in force from today as half-term holidays begin.

Overall, visits to paid tourist attractions rose by 1 per cent last year. The top historic attraction remained the Tower of London with 2.6 million visitors, the top church Westminster Abbey. Other attractions which reported marked increases in business last year were Windermere Lake Cruises, London Zoo, Drayton Manor Park in Staffordshire and Edinburgh Castle.

But free attractions still outrank the paid-for by far. Top of the list was Blackpool Pleasure Beach, followed by the British Museum, even though you're not allowed to cuddle the famous at either of them.

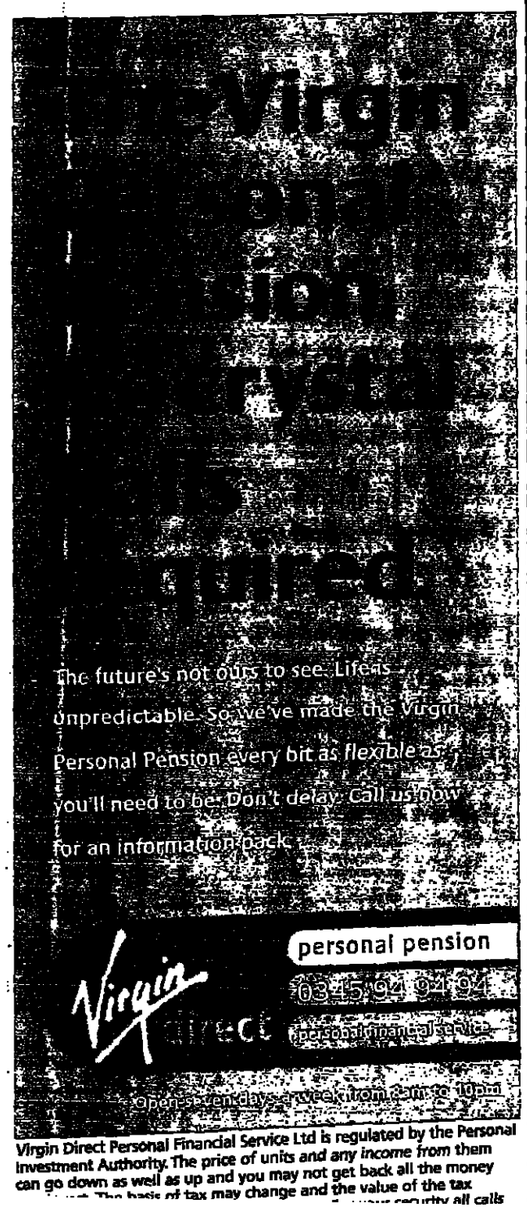
CHRIS HARRIS



Touching moment: a Spanish visitor with Mel Gibson and Brad Pitt. Tourists can now hug their heroes

TOP TOURIST ATTRACTIONS 1997

	visitors
1 Madame Tussaud's	2,798,801
2 Alton Towers	2,701,945
3 Tower of London	2,615,170
4 Natural History Museum	1,793,818
5 Chessington World of Adventure	1,750,000
6 Canterbury Cathedral	1,613,000
7 Science Museum	1,537,151
8 Legoland	1,297,818
9 Edinburgh Castle	1,238,140
10 Blackpool Tower	1,200,000



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

WOMEN AT WAR



Jayne Buxton, a powerful new voice for working women, has a challenge for parents everywhere: what side are you on in the Mother War? Read her tough analysis of the 'never-ending dilemma which is life with children and a full-time job'

Tomorrow in News Review

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Harrow teacher is jailed after stealing trips cash

Judge tells former master sentence is as short as he can make it, reports Adam Fresco

A FORMER geography master at Harrow School was jailed for nine months yesterday for stealing £35,000 from a fund for school trips. The judge told Peter Jackson that he was making the sentence as short as he could.

Jackson, 36, used the money to pay his children's school fees and to settle mortgage arrears. He also took thousands of pounds not properly accounted for.

Sentencing him at Wood Green Crown Court, Judge Leonard Gerber said that he had embarked on a complex fraud to hide his dishonesty, involving a great deal of thought and planning, including an off-the-shelf company, a fictitious address and non-existent staff.

The judge said that while he was aware of the trauma a custodial sentence would have on Jackson's four children and his "devoted" wife, there was no alternative: "But I make it as short as I can consistent with my duty. This is a tragic case. You are a young man of promise and ability and that has been destroyed.

"This was a deliberate fraud planned and carried out with a great deal of thought over 14 months and involved a serious breach of trust. You betrayed pupils who looked up to you as a role model and parents who paid money to you and didn't even ask for a receipt."

He said that Jackson also betrayed the Head Master who "had warned you of the importance of keeping parents' money and your own personal finances separate".

Jackson had organised overseas expeditions to promote leadership and independence in pupils. He collected thousands of pounds from parents for trips to Florida, Jordan and Africa but spent much of it trying to fend off creditors, to renovate his country cottage and to pay for piano lessons.

Jackson, who was convicted on 12 sample counts of theft and one of forgery, was told by the judge that his claim that an adverse reaction to an anti-malarial drug was to blame for the many lies he told was just part of the "catalogue of lies we have heard".

Jackson, nicknamed Action Man by pupils, owed £1,000 to the school bookshop and dining hall. From 1993 he faced seven county court judgments against him, totalling more than £30,000.

The school has introduced rigorous controls to ensure that nothing similar can happen. Nicholas Bomford, the Head Master, said: "One assumed one was dealing with someone one could trust to perform his duties ... he slipped through the net."

During a three-week trial, the court was told that Jackson began to run up large debts when one of his daughters fell fatally ill just before he joined Harrow in September 1988, and he and his wife faced considerable expense living near her in central London.

Jackson, of Charminster, Dorset, now faces the prospect of civil action by the school to recover the stolen money.



Jackson arriving at court for sentencing yesterday

McVicar's son given 15 years for robberies

By Adam Fresco

THE son of John McVicar, the former armed robber, was jailed for 15 years yesterday for violent raids over four years that netted him £100,000.

Russell Grant-McVicar's crimes included using a shotgun to steal a Picasso oil painting called *Tête de Femme*, worth £650,000, from an art gallery in London while on the run from prison.

Grant-McVicar, 33, whose father became Britain's most wanted man in 1968 after escaping from a high-security prison, was found guilty of eight robberies, two escapes, attempted robbery and five related firearms offences between 1993 and 1997. He had denied all the charges and defended himself.

He told the Old Bailey that he stole in order to make a "spiritual statement" on behalf of starving children. He handed Judge Geoffrey Grigson a letter outlining his mitigation for the series of armed robberies he had committed to fund his life on the run from police.

It was not read out in court, but contained a reference to his family. Judge Grigson told him: "I have read what you say of your family. You must understand the effect on them is actually your responsibility. My responsibility is for the public. You must understand that I sentence you for what you did and not who you are.

"You committed a series of robberies with some skill and considerable panache but in doing so you deliberately and ruthlessly put a number of wholly innocent people — mostly young women — in real fear of their lives."

Grant-McVicar is estranged from his father, who has renounced crime to become a writer and broadcaster. His father, who did not attend court during the case, has said he believes his son turned to crime to punish him for neglecting him during his childhood but he blames his son for not learning from his own experiences.

The court heard that Grant-McVicar has already served four years for 23 offences of fraud involving credit cards and traveller's cheques.

The judge ordered a second indictment of abduction and having underage sex with a 14-year-old girl to lie on the court file.



Grant-McVicar: he defended himself

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3rd Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.78%	6.99%	5.42%
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Mike Goldwater/National Photographers

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Eight-year CJD court fight ends in £1m victory

A judge has swept aside a cut-off date to help eight families, reports Michael Horsnell

FAMILIES who lost relatives to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from contaminated human growth hormone won their eight-year legal battle yesterday for compensation expected to exceed £1 million.

A High Court judge ruled that the Department of Health was responsible for the plight of eight victims whose childhood treatment straddled a previous compensation cut-off date of July 1, 1977.

The families lost children, husbands and wives who had been given injections during the 1970s at the height of the programme, which ran from 1959 until 1985.

Mr Justice Morland said that those responsible for producing the hormone — from the pituitary gland of human corpses — knew, or should have known, of the risks of CJD infection.

If doctors responsible for the treatment had been told of the risk in 1977, when the dangers were first suspected, they would have stopped the treatment, he said. They were not told until 1985, when the first deaths from CJD occurred in Britain and America.

The eight cases are in addition to 12 in which the Health Department has conceded liability during the past two years after a 1996 High Court judgment in which it was found negligent.

They involved patients whose treatment began after July 1, 1977. So far the department has paid £600,000 in compensation. Another five cases have yet to be determined but most are expected to benefit from yesterday's ruling.

An estimated 960,000 pituitaries were gathered from bodies undergoing post-mortem examinations in hospitals, and the hormone given to nearly 2,000 children with stunted growth. Some 25 people who were treated have died and another two are seriously ill from CJD, none of them related to the BSE scare in cattle.

Parents of those who died welcomed the judgment but expressed their disillusionment with the NHS, the "callous and indifferent" attitude of the authorities and the lack of political backing for their fight for justice.

Don Hefferon, 69, from Paddington, West London, said: "I think that payment should be automatically extended to all families that have been visited by this catastrophe."

His son, Saul, died at the age of 20 from CJD in 1988 after being treated between the ages of 7 and 17.

"I feel more distressed than angry or bitter," Mr Hefferon said. "I had always presumed the NHS was there to really care for people who are in extreme distress, whatever their particular illness."

His son first became sick while an A-level student planning to read history and English literature at Anglia Polytechnic in Chelmsford, Essex. His family attributed his condition to "the average young man's lifestyle of late nights, going to discos and drinking cider in the union bar". But then he gave up an art course, announcing that he could not draw any more because his hand shook.

Maureen Newman, 48, from Coulsdon, Surrey, whose son, Terence, died in 1990 aged 21 after treatment between the ages of 6 and 18, said: "I am very pleased with the judgment but just wish that we had not had to go to court. Now we have won, we can finally let Terry rest."

Compensation, which in previous cases has ranged from £90,000 to £140,000 for each family, will be settled next month, when lawyers for the eight families will meet Health Department officials to apply the judgment. David Body, their solicitor, said after the case: "After the Department of Health was found negligent in 1996, our suggestion that all remaining cases be compensated was fought at every step.

"These families were fighting a Government that refused a public inquiry and so had to seek their justice at court.

"They needed the backing of legal aid to do this. Without it they would not have been equipped to fight the bureaucracy and inertia of an enormous government department with huge resources which fought tooth and nail."

In July 1996, Mr Justice Morland ruled that the Health Department was negligent in not heeding the warning of Alan Dickinson, who in 1977 told the Medical Research Council about the risk of contracting CJD from the hormone treatment.

The judge said that the department should not have allowed any more patients to be treated after July 1, 1977, and that the families of those whose treatment began after then could seek compensation. He has now added those whose treatment straddled the cut-off date.

Yesterday's judgment does not mean the end of litigation over CJD hormone growth. In another hearing by Mr Justice Morland, expected in July, he will rule in test cases brought by six people who received the treatment as children and who live in fear of contracting the disease.

A spokesman for the Health Department said: "We accept the findings of the court in respect of liability for patients whose treatment straddled the date July 1, 1977, when negligence was found to have started, and we will apply those findings to those, if any, who may contract CJD in the future. We will be discussing the amounts of compensation with solicitors for the plaintiffs."



MICHAEL CRABTREE / REUTERS

Don Hefferon, left, and Maureen Newman, right, with Tony and Isobel Smith at the High Court yesterday

Spinach becomes nuclear plant

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

NUCLEAR scientists are turning to the power of spinach to see if Popeye's favourite vegetable can handle nuclear waste.

Next week they will sow spinach, dwarf sunflowers, sugar beet and Indian mustard on lightly contaminated ground at Bradwell power station, Essex. The hope is that the plants will draw the radioactivity from the soil into their leaves, which can then be safely destroyed.

The seedlings will be covered by a green mesh to keep away birds, bees and butterflies, and a chicken-wire barrier will be sunk to keep out rabbits. They will be harvested before they produce seed.

Soil at Bradwell was contaminated in the early 1970s, after a leak in pipes carrying effluent into the cooling system. Most of the contaminated soil has been removed for disposal at Drigg, Cumbria, the national repository for low-level waste. The remainder is an ideal test bed for "phytoremediation" — the use of plants to clean up soil.

Robin Sellars of British Nuclear Fuels said: "We hope to demonstrate that phytoremediation could offer significant reduction in the volume for disposal." The plan is to harvest and incinerate the plants, leaving just the radioactive ash for disposal. Dr Sellars said: "The technology is novel, simple, and would be low cost and environmentally friendly."

Bank workers win claim for RSI

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE women were awarded a total of £50,000 yesterday after a judge ruled that their part-time jobs processing cheques at high speed was responsible for giving them Repetitive Strain Injury.

The settlement against the Midland Bank — which also faces costs estimated at £500,000 — is a landmark in personal-injury litigation. Although there have been successful cases brought in the past over the painful limb disorder suffered by keyboard operators, yesterday's judgment in the Mayor's and City of London Court was the first court victory involving "diffuse" RSI, where the victims suffer disabling pains but no specific injuries can be diagnosed.

The court was told that the women's work involved processing cheques and other information into computers against strict time-limits. They said they were under intense pressure to perform, with workers achieving four keystrokes per second earning gold stars and more payment. One of the women, Angela Osler, 48, said: "The work used to arrive in big bags and we just had to key in the details until it was all finished. It was a bit like a production line." Along with the other women in the case — Jane Alexander, 33, Margaret Rolfe, 44, Beverly Mulholland, 50 and Rachel Lancaster, 38 — she was based at the bank's district service centre at Frimley, Surrey. They were awarded £7,000 each plus individual damages of up to £5,800.

Their action was backed by the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU), which has nine more diffuse-RSI cases pending. Linda Gregory, the union's chief negotiator for the Midland Bank, said: "The judge has made it clear that you cannot force staff to work faster and faster without being culpable in law. Employers can no longer treat staff like machines."

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British invention could revolutionise cancer treatment

Low-cost device enables doctors to match care to the individual patient, reports Ian Murray

A BRITISH invention could revolutionise cancer care by making it possible for specialists to customise treatment for each tumour of every patient.

The device accurately and quickly measures oxygen levels in different parts of the growth. It can easily be operated by one clinician, and costs between £14,000 and £27,000, depending on the level of sophistication needed. Its nearest rival costs £100,000, and requires four clinicians.

Knowing the oxygen levels in a tumour is crucial because cancer cells respond differently to treatment depending on how much of the gas they contain. Because they are damaged, they have less oxygen in them than healthy cells, although some are in such bad condition that they contain virtually none.

Both radiotherapy and chemotherapy work by acting on the oxygen in the cells, and the less oxygen they contain the more radiation or drugs are needed to destroy the damaged cells. If patients are given more therapy than is needed, it can make them ill. But if they are given too little, the cancer can recur.

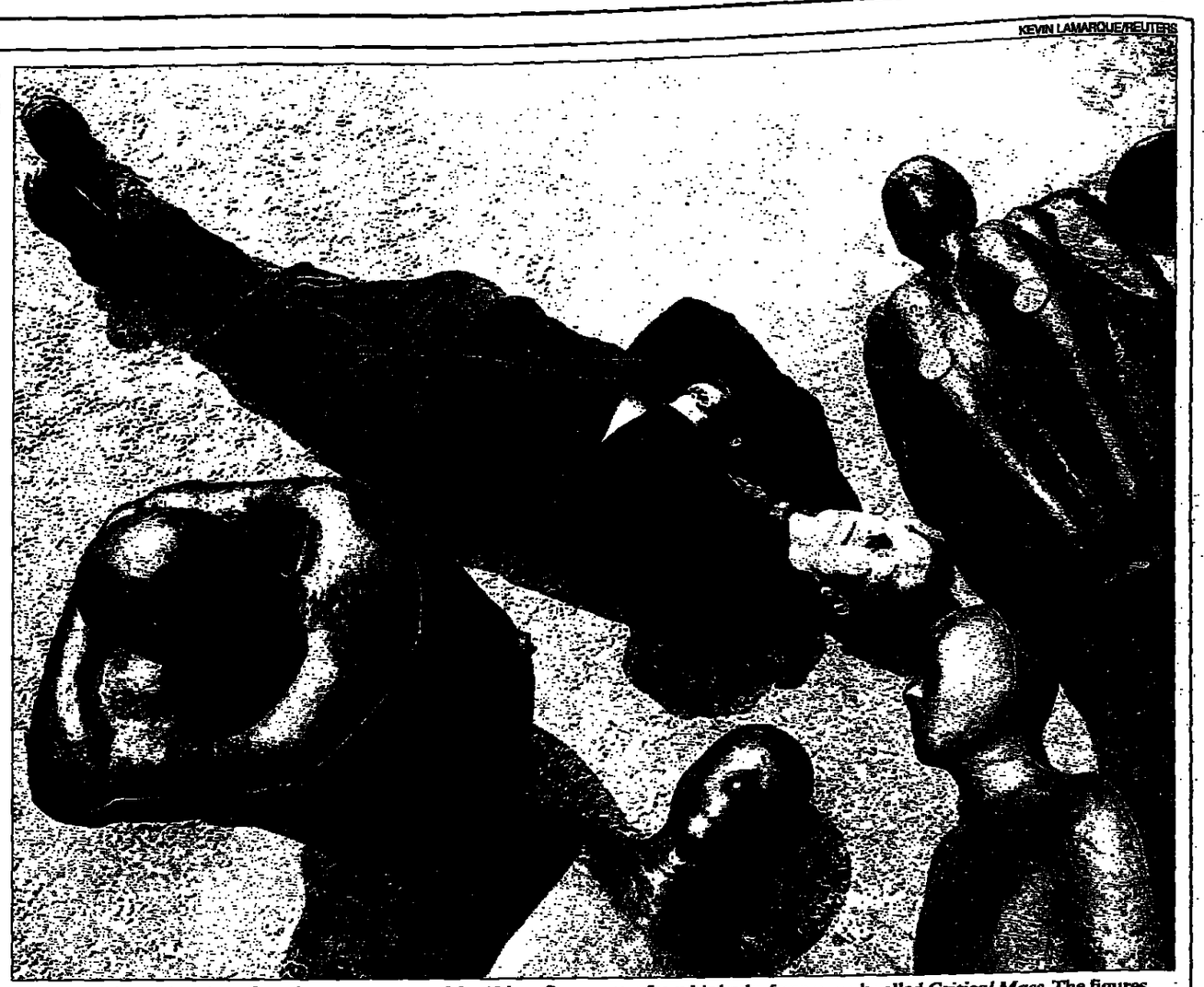
Using the new device, the specialist can create an oxygen map of the tumour, then target different parts of it with different levels of radiation. If drugs are being used, then the correct ones can be prescribed. The inventor, Borivoj Vojnovic, from the Gray Laboratories at the Mount Vernon Hospital at Northwood, northwest London, has been developing the device over the past four years with the help of £150,000 funding from the Cancer Research Campaign. He expects that his invention will have wider use beyond cancer in the treatment of conditions such as heart disease, head injuries, shock monitoring and plastic surgery, where accurate knowledge of oxygen levels in the tissues is crucial. "It is a bit like a thermometer," he said. "It does not cure anybody by itself, but it is a wonderful aid to diagnosis and treatment."

The device uses fibre optic technology. Glass probes, tipped with an oxygen-sensitive substance, are inserted into the tumour using a fine needle. A blue light is then fed down the probe and the coating on the tip reacts with oxygen to send a red light back. The intensity of the light is then measured. By moving the probe to different parts of the tumour or inserting up to four different ones into it at the same time, the different levels of oxygen in the tumour can be mapped. The device can also be used in conjunction with a magnetic resonance scanner because no metal parts are involved, providing a complete picture of the tumour and making treatment easier.

The invention's nearest rival is less accurate or adaptable, and so large that it needs a small room of its own. Only 50 of the largest research hospitals worldwide can afford it, and most cancer specialists have to rely on their training and experience to make a rough estimate of oxygen levels. The new device is so affordable it is likely to be available as standard equipment in most hospitals within the next decade.

Patient trials using the device are due to start at Mount Vernon this autumn and are expected to last up to five years. Although the device has only been available since the start of this month, orders have started pouring in from research institutions in America.

KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS



Life imitating art: Antony Gormley among some of the 60 iron figures, cast from his body, from a work called *Critical Mass*. The figures, each three quarters of a ton, have been scattered about the courtyard of the Royal Academy of Arts, London, for the Summer Exhibition starting on June 2. "One woman asked, 'What are you going to do with them when you've assembled them all?' " Mr Gormley said

Driven to despair in giant car park

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AT LEAST 30 drivers a week are having to call the AA after mislaying their vehicles in the vast expanses of the 7,000-space car park at Britain's newest, giant shopping mall.

Tired and laden down with purchases, they stumble out of Cribbs Causeway, near Bristol, only to lose their bearings amid 60 acres of cars. Some search for hours before swallowing their pride and asking for help from security staff or the AA patrol contracted to provide a breakdown service to the mall's customers.

Adrian Ruck, an AA spokesman, said: "This is by far the biggest car park in the South West and people just are not used to the magnitude of it. The bays are all numbered but in the excitement of visiting the mall, drivers forget to take a few seconds to jot down the details.

"The car park surrounds the mall and, if you inadvertently come out on the wrong side, you could look forever and not find your car where you expect it to to be. This is people of all sexes and ages, although men are more embarrassed about it when their cars are found. We nearly always manage to reunite car and driver within ten minutes."

Many of those who lose their cars are cannot believe it is their own incompetence and insist the vehicle must have been stolen.

The mall's public safety manager, Martin Stephens, said: "You get people with their arms full of shopping coming out unable to find their cars. Obviously they get distressed, think the car has been stolen and contact the AA or our security staff."

For those too proud to admit they have mislaid their car there is only one alternative: find a quiet corner and wait until everyone else has gone home. Yours should be the one car that is left.

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JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



Incest key to writer's long block

AN INCESTUOUS relationship between a revered New York novelist and his sister may hold the key to this century's most famous case of "writer's block". Henry Roth won acclaim as a great modernist writer at the age of just 28 with the 1934 publication of his first novel. *Call It Sleep* — a Joycean stream of consciousness about his upbringing in the Jewish ghetto on New York's Lower East Side. Mysteriously, Roth did not publish another word until the first book of his four-volume autobiographical novel, *Mercy of a Rude Stream*, came out in 1994, a year before his death. That six-decade silence has been one of the literary puzzles of our time. Since the publication in 1995 of the second instalment, *A Diving Rock on the Hudson*, critics have suspected him of incest. In the book, Roth's alter ego, Ira Stigman, recalls having regular sex with his younger sister Minnie, rewarded with payments of a dollar. Despite the normal disclaimer that this was pure fiction, reviewers suspected the tale had its origin in life and denounced Roth's apparent disregard for the feelings of his sister, Rose Broder.

The thesis that Roth enjoyed a sexual relationship with Mrs Broder, who died a year after him, has now received confirmation with the release of an extraordinary contract between the two siblings by his publisher, St Martin's Press. The contract, dated May 24, 1995, required Roth to pay Mrs Broder $10,000 (about £6,000) in exchange for immunity from legal action, and committed him to excise brother-sister incest from the next two volumes. Also made public was a letter from Mrs Broder chastising her brother for writing about the "revelation" and stating: "I do not intend to go to my grave besmirched." The full story came out because Robert Weil, Roth's editor at St Martin's, once had to question the author for two hours on videotape in anticipation of legal action, and the author admitted having sex with his younger sister in his early teens. "It's pretty shocking," Mr Weil says. "He did discuss that there was incest between brother and sister, so that fictionally what was portrayed in the novel had a basis in fact, but it's not exactly as it is in the novel . . . the incestuous relationship was far less frequent than you would find in the book. The book is far more heated."



Roth: shame of sex with sister

Mr Weil, who edited 5,000 pages of Roth's work, believes his silence is largely attributable to his shame about the incest. "In his life it became far more of a monster than it was," he says. "It became the biggest pyschological shame of his life." But he added: "It is essential to understanding Henry Roth and one of the great literary stories of the 20th century."



MYLES ARONOWITZ

Tow-away zone: New York feels the impact of a post-nuclear lizard in the latest movie remake of the 1954 cult classic *Godzilla*

Godzilla goes Gallic

WITH New York about to fall to a new, high-tech *Godzilla* in the remake of the 1954 cult classic, moviegoers received a timely reminder last week that the giant Japanese lizard was originally seen as a metaphor for nuclear terror. Michael Schaller, author of a book on Japanese-US relations, recalled that the first of the 20 *Godzilla* films came out in Japan only a few months after a US nuclear test on Bikini atoll sank a Japanese fishing boat, the *Lucky Dragon*.

The original "opens with an ominous explosion and series of flashes that sink Japanese fishing boats", he writes. "Moving along an island-hopping route like that of both America's wartime aerial attacks and the *Lucky Dragon*, Godzilla inflicts burns and carnage that are described in the same terms used by the Japanese press for the war's bombing victims . . . A generation of Americans screamed in wonder as Godzilla incinerated Tokyo, but Japanese audiences saw the film very differently."

Conveniently, the new *Godzilla* blockbuster opens with credits blaming the monster on a mutation caused by French — not American — nuclear testing in the Pacific. Now that India has got the bomb, perhaps the "King of the Monsters" should be ravaging Karachi or Beijing instead of New York — but that wouldn't sell as many tickets. Hollywood learnt a long time ago that the one sure way to box-office bliss is to obliterate the Big Apple (see this summer's meteor movie, *Deep Impact*). Although the gargantuan lizard wreaks havoc on Wall Street, Central Park, Park Avenue and the Brooklyn Bridge, Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, declared the film's release date Godzilla Day. And the premiere at Madison Square Garden was attended by a record crowd of 13,000.

Confusion remains about the sex of the beast, however. Godzilla is always referred to as a "he", but manages nevertheless to lay enormous eggs in Madison Square Garden. Obviously, its sexuality was altered by the nuclear mutation.



Woody Allen and his wife Soon-Yi at a Knicks game

Hoop dreams of a little guy

FRONT-ROW seats at Knicks basketball games at Madison Square Gardens are New York's equivalent of the Royal Box at Ascot. Among the film stars and politicians who have a regular spot is Woody Allen, who has been sitting court-side for 25 years. A millionaire friend who snagged a couple of tickets for a recent game reported that Allen sat frozen, his knuckles white, throughout the match, while his young wife, Soon-Yi, stroked him to calm him down. (Apparently, this was one of the things he disliked about Soon-Yi's adoptive mother, Mia Farrow.)

Allen has now turned sports writer himself. In the latest issue of the weekly *New York Observer*, he delivers his thoughts on the Knicks and life. "Putting the ball into the hoop is of immense significance to me by personal choice, and my life is more fun because of it," he writes. "Not that I ever thought of becoming a basketball player. My height was insufficient for a serious career."

The "mean streets" of New York are hardly worthy of the name, as crime continues to plummet. The city ranks 160th in crime per-capita among the 201 American cities with populations of more than 100,000. That gave rise to a row with placid Boise, Idaho (ranked 154, with just four murders last year), whose mayor said he just had to laugh. "This is a place where people don't lock their doors at night or their car doors," he said. Try that in the Big Apple.



Jocelyne Wildenstein

A pizza of the action

JOCELYNE Wildenstein, the surgically enhanced socialite who is known as the "Bride of Wildenstein", scored a clever victory in her divorce battle with the billionaire art dealer Alec Wildenstein when she saw his presumed girlfriend shopping in Bloomingdale's.

She ordered her lawyer to rush to the department store with a subpoena. When he arrived, the woman was climbing into a limousine, but he served the papers when she stopped for a pizza.

New Yorkers have a particular talent for abuse. I have a new favourite insult, which was overheard on a New York bus.In irritation, one thick-headed friend turned to another and asked, in his best Brooklyn brogue: "Are you stupid or both?"

Coiffeur in brush with staff

A CELEBRITY hairdresser who coiffed the tresses of Diana, Princess of Wales, and counts the actresses Vanessa Redgrave, Helena Bonham Carter and Juliette Binoche among his clientele, has been hit by a multimillion-dollar lawsuit for allegedly groping his male assistants.

"We were his toys," alleged Demetrius Anderopoulos, 26, one of John Barrett's staff. "If you were a man, he hit on you, period."

Mr Barrett, whose lilac-tinted salon in the Bergdorf Goodman department store offers $300 (£185) hairdos, denies the allegations as "inaccurate, taken out of context and/or grossly exaggerated".

Sir John Gielgud has no taste for "foie gras". The venerable Oscar winner is denouncing the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for failing to object to the way geese and ducks are force-fed to make their livers swell.

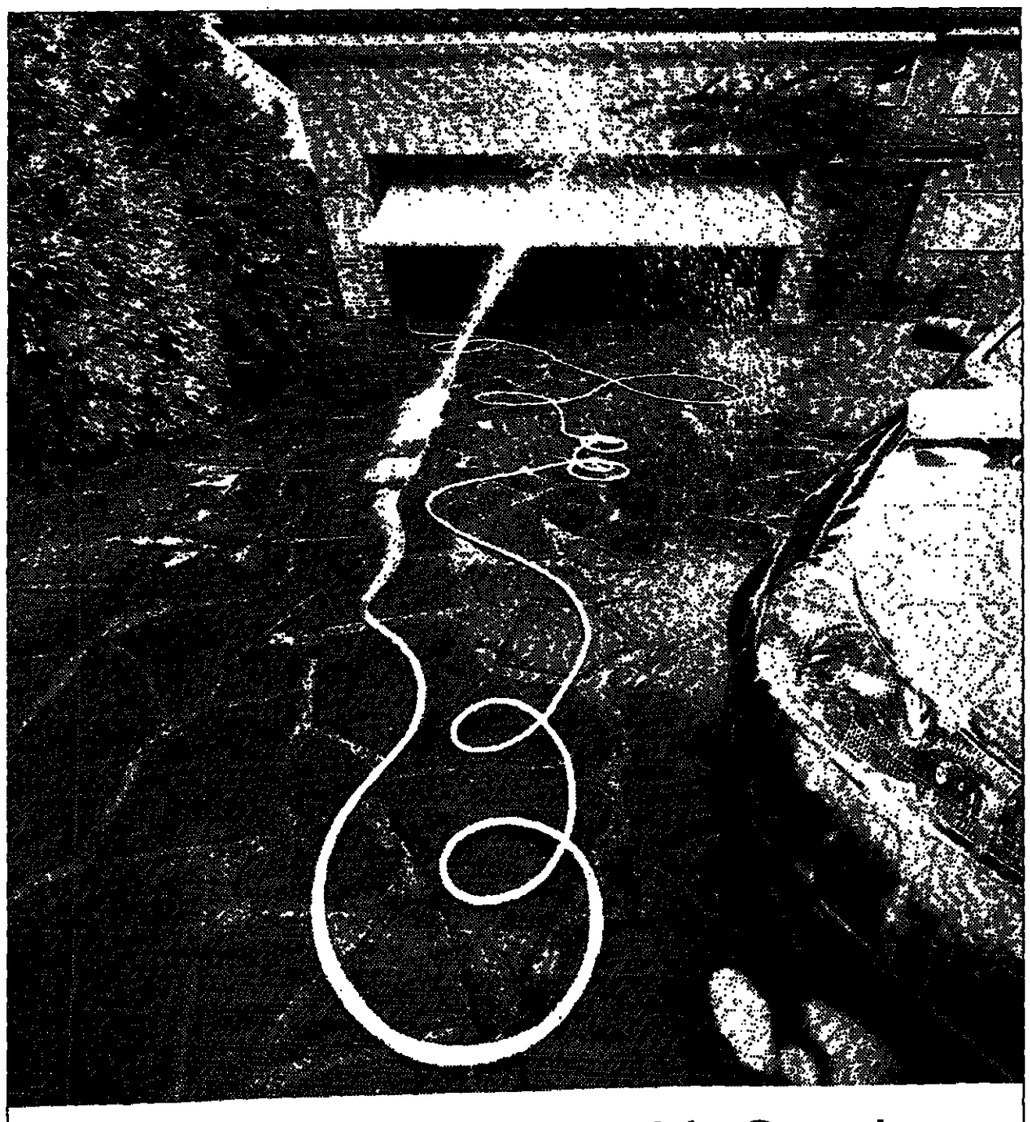
"Foie gras is an abomination that every humane individual must reject as a disgrace in civilised society," Sir John says.



Dewi Sukarno: pleased

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FROM the safety of her exile on the Upper East Side, Dewi Sukarno, widow of Indonesia's founding President, is obviously satisfied that the man who overthrew her husband, President Suharto, has been forced to stand down. "One head of state should never stay more than one decade," she said. What about President Sukarno's 22 years in power? "He was too popular," she explained.



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Sinatra's will puts a curb on family feud

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

THE will of Frank Sinatra was made public yesterday, showing that even in death the "chairman of the board" exercises an iron control over the family firm.

Barbara Sinatra, his fourth wife, has been left the lioness's share of his liquid assets, with up to $3.5 million (£2.1 million) in cash. The three children from his first marriage — Frank Jr, Tina and Nancy — have been left only $200,000 each.

Since Mrs Sinatra and the children have consistently been at loggerheads, with the latter accusing the former of holding their father "hostage" in his last years, Sinatra took stern measures in his will to prevent any post-probate battles. He arranged for the insertion of a "no-nonsense clause", which would disinherit instantly anyone who tried to contest his final testament in court.

The will covers only a portion of the Sinatra estate, valued at more than $200 million, the bulk of which was apportioned before his death in a tax-saving "living trust".





Nancy and Frank Jr, the singer's children from his first marriage, were left only $200,000 each

Under the terms of the will, Mrs Sinatra will never want for a decent address, as she was also left the couple's Beverley Hills mansion, a beach-front house in Malibu, and a sprawling horse ranch in the Nevada desert. Most lucratively of all, she has been granted all rights to market Sinatra's name and likeness worldwide, believed to be worth tens of millions of dollars. The singer's name and visage now graces such merchandise as pasta sauce, ties, Californian sparkling wine, "singing" porcelain souvenir plates (embedded with a computer chip that carries Sinatra's voice) and other products.

Paintings, silverware, furniture, books, jewellery, a Mercedes-Benz and a Rolls-Royce, the music collection and other personal memorabilia were also left to Mrs Sinatra. The late singer, however, instructed his executor to "first return to any child of mine any of such items which said child may have given to me". Sinatra's sheet music was the only personal item not earmarked specifically for his wife, being left instead to Frank Jr.

The children will hardly be destitute. They are already the main beneficiaries of the living trust, which is similar to a will but not subject to probate or judicial certification. Harvey Silbert, Sinatra's lawyer, made clear that the children were sumptuously cushioned when he said: "There are very substantial assets in the trust. There's no way to evaluate his assets now, but most of them are in the trust and not in the will."

The children's greatest source of income will continue to be from the absolute rights they enjoy over most of Sinatra's music catalogue.

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN / AP



Barbara Sinatra, the singer's fourth and last wife, has inherited $3.5 million, the bulk of his liquid assets

Other beneficiaries include: Sinatra's first wife, Nancy, who will receive $250,000; a trust set up for his granddaughters, Angela and Amanda Lambert, which receives an infusion of $1 million; Robert Marx, the son of Barbara Sinatra from a previous marriage, who receives $100,000; Sinatra's long-time nurse, Elvina Joubert, who gets $150,000; and his secretary, Dorothy Uhlemann, who has been left $50,000. Mr Silbert confirmed that some money had been left to charity, but denied reports that there was $150 million for abused children.

Clean up at Halfords.



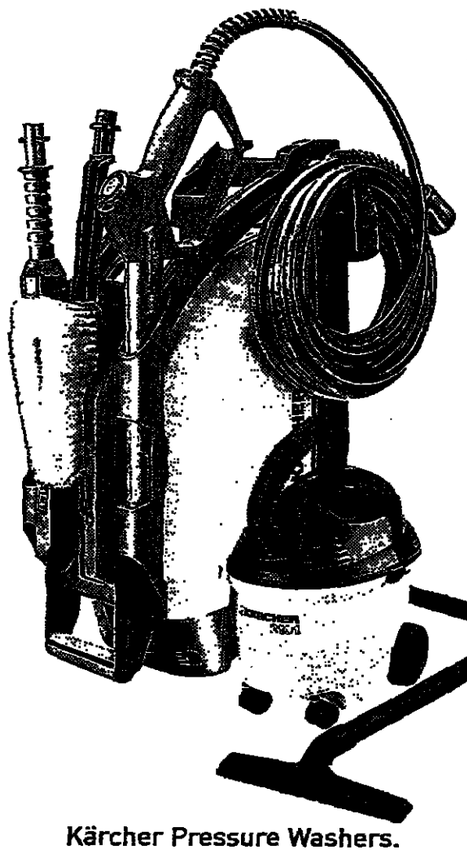
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Nigerians allowed bail in plot case

Port Harcourt: A Nigerian court yesterday granted bail to 19 ethnic Ogonis arrested four years ago and accused of the same crime as Ken Saro-Wiwa, the hanged author, and eight other executed activists.

"The prosecution has shown insufficient interest in pursuing the matter," said Justice Obie Daniel-Kalio at the High Court in the southeastern city as he delivered bail for the 19, accused of conspiracy to commit murder. Bail was set at 50,000 naira (£350) for each, provided by two guarantors owning land.

Originally 20 Ogonis were arrested and charged shortly after Saro-Wiwa and the other eight in May 1994. One died in detention. All pleaded not guilty.

An international outcry followed the 1995 execution of Saro-Wiwa, convicted of involvement in the murder of four pro-government chiefs. The hanging went ahead despite worldwide appeals for clemency. Saro-Wiwa led the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, which campaigned for autonomy for the 500,000 ethnic Ogonis and for compensation from the oil company Royal Dutch/Shell for alleged environmental damage. *(Reuters)*

Sandline is given support by UN

New York: The United Nations yesterday issued a confidential legal opinion that could exonerate Sandline International for shipping weapons to Sierra Leone in the arms-to-Africa affair (James Bone writes).

Customs and Excise found that Sandline had breached a UN arms embargo but decided against prosecution because of the involvement of Foreign Office officials in meetings with the London-based company.

The UN legal office argued that the arms embargo imposed on Sierra Leone last October contained an "implied exemption" for the arms shipments to the West African peacekeeping force in the country, known as Ecomog.

The opinion lends support to Sandline's argument that it was permitted to send arms to Ecomog troops in Sierra Leone.

The UN's view came in a letter written by Ralph Zacklin, a British national who serves as Assistant UN Secretary-General for Legal Affairs.

British diplomats in New York refused to discuss the implications of the legal opinion for the Sandline case, and simply referred it to London.

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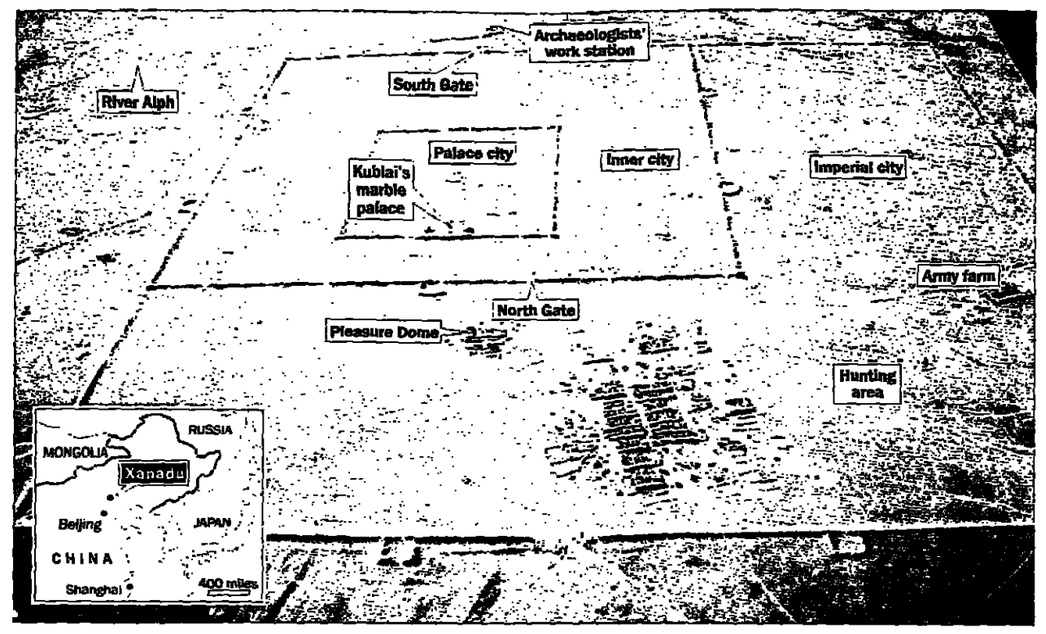
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EXPLORER ARCHIVES

One of Xanadu's newly revealed features may be the park where Kublai Khan was believed to have hunted deer



James Pringle becomes one of the rare foreign visitors to fabled Xanadu and finds that Coleridge's opium vision came amazingly close to the truth

Paradise regained

No signpost marks the side-road that leads to fabled Xanadu, the summer capital of the Mongol Emperor Kublai Khan with its "pleasure-dome", immortalised by Marco Polo and Samuel Taylor Coleridge; just a rough, earthen track heads north towards one of the world's most intriguing and least visited archaeological sites.

The anonymous status of this "lost" city is intentional. Xanadu, though ruined, is located in a closed military area of China's Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, which until the collapse of the Soviet Union was a key strategic base for China's People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Because of supposed secret military installations, the army still controls access here and owns a state farm within Xanadu's outer perimeter, whose small houses were constructed in 1953 of bricks taken from the ancient 13th-century walls. So far, the still suspicious PLA has vetoed any attempts by the civilian administration of Inner Mongolia to open Xanadu to tourism in an effort to improve the region's economy, though a few intrepid travellers have made it to here.

After applying for months — indeed years — to visit Xanadu, an alien's travel permit was granted by the State Security Ministry to a group of three Beijing-based British correspondents. The permit specified the exact route, with district towns and villages, to be taken to Xhenglanqi — the nearest town, which is itself closed, to the ruins. Xhenglanqi is 169 miles as the crow flies northeast of Beijing, but the group reached it only after an 11-hour vehicle journey through the Great Wall and over unsurfaced roads and ranges of hill where bullocks pulled wooden ploughs. Hilltop Mongol beacon fortresses still mark the route to this "forbidden city on the grasslands.

Known as Shangdu to the Chinese, Xanadu was capital of China for three years from 1260, and the summer palace of Kublai Khan and his successors for over a century after that. Its construction was decreed by Kublai and a brilliant Chinese architect, Liu Pingchung, erected 38 buildings, a mix of Chinese and Mongol styles, within its walls.

It was here that Mongol warriors crowned Kublai as Great Khan and this was where he entertained his followers, as Polo reported, every June, July and August when his capital at Beijing became unbearably hot.

Intriguingly, our rare visit to Xanadu seems to confirm not only much of what the Italian traveller wrote in his 13th-century sojourn in China, when he worked for many years in the service of Kublai Khan, but just how accurate also was the famed stream-of-consciousness poem by Coleridge, *Kubla Khan*.

Though Coleridge never came here but wrote his poem in an opium-induced revelry in 1797, his descriptions remain remarkably true to life. Just 300 yards from the southern gate into Xanadu, there is a small river, called the Alph by Coleridge but Clear Spring by the local Mongolians who still inhabit the area. In the evening men gather with their ponies to sit on a tiny bridge over the Alph smoking and looking out over the reedy, waterlogged meadows.

Irises and other steppe flowers spring from the earth and there are many winding streams — *Gardens bright with sinuous rills* — and the ground is covered with sparkling shards of Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty porcelain and marble from the imperial palace, now reduced to a 30ft-high mudbrick platform.

The entire five-by-five miles of the outer walls of Xanadu which encompassed Kublai's well-stocked hunting area are still clearly visible with the original brick wall seen in places. As Coleridge wrote:

So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round.

In the little museum in the work station of a Chinese archaeological team headed by Professor Wei Jian, where Marco Polo is honoured with a picture and text, there is even an instrument similar to Coleridge's Abyssinian dulcimer — "a damsel with a dulcimer in a vision once I saw" — although the poet's reference here was to Ethiopia.

Last year aerial surveys by a team headed by Dr Yang Lin, director of the Centre of Remote Sensing and Aerial Archaeology, helped to locate where Kublai Khan built his "stately pleasure-dome". Professor Wei said it was situated on a rise of green grass overlooking the ruins of the north gate of the inner palace. He believes, as Polo described, it was in the form of a giant yurt, or Mongol tent.

It was here that Kublai, founder of China's Yuan Dynasty, entertained 1,000 guests at a time with banquets of roasted sheep and copious drink.

Professor Wei, quoting from Yuan Dynasty poems and other ancient texts, said that at Kublai's three-day feasts entertainment was provided by 16 beautiful Central Asian dancing girls clad in diaphanous gowns.

In their see-through dresses, they performed a kind of "barbarian twist" and the "heavenly demons" dance, Professor Wei said, as he himself demonstrated the undulating motion of the dance. The Mongols were great drinkers and there were nine tented taverns at the southern gate, each marked with a streaming flag and visiting horsemen were invited to drink heartily fermented mare's milk and spirits. For two and a half days, Professor Wei accompanied the correspondents around Xanadu and the site of Yang Qun Miao, 21 miles to the northeast, where Kublai Khan honoured his ancestors.

Though there is controversy in academic circles as to whether Marco Polo ever reached China, Yang Qun Miao is mentioned in his account of his trip, an extraordinary achievement if, indeed, Polo had not been to China but was relying on hearsay.

Marco Polo wrote that every August "it is the established custom to depart from thence (Xanadu) and proceed to an appointed place, in order to perform certain sacrifices to the spirits and idols whom they adore." At these times the Emperor poured fermented mare's milk over the figures and smeared their lips with mutton fat.

The site was formally identified in 1992 by Professor Wei. The statues excavated here may be of Genghis Khan, the great Mongol conqueror who was Kublai's grandfather, because they have imperial dragons carved on their garments. Wang Jianye, a local peasant farmer, remembers seeing the statues sticking partly out of the ground when he was a boy.

As to whether Xanadu, perhaps the world's most exotic dateline, will ever open to tourists, this is still in doubt. Though the threat from the former Soviet Union has vanished, this is still an area with a sensitive minority and on the edge of the border with independent Mongolia. Although Han Chinese outnumber Inner Mongolians more than five to one through a policy of settlement here (21 million Han to 3.8 million Mongolians), the Mongolians still guard their identity fiercely and two years ago Beijing issued warnings about Mongolian "separatism".

At the appropriately named "grasslands" disco in Xhenglanqi, even the music has the beat of galloping horses as dancers whirl to an updated version of the Barbarian Twist. "Kublai Khan was our hero," said one young man as he paused in his gyrations. "We worship him."

During the Cultural Revolution, in a frenzy of violence initiated by Red Guards against alleged Mongolian "splittists", 22,900 people died and 790,000 were detained, by the Communist Party's own admission.

Despite its relative proximity to Beijing, some locals here said they had never seen foreigners before. One old lady within the bounds of Xanadu would have pleased Coleridge. She asked where the visitors were from. On being told Britain, she said she did not know of that part of China. Told Britain was another country, she said: "Another country? I thought China was the only country." Many locals complain they had not been paid for months and the area seems economically depressed.

Si Qin, of the Foreign Affairs Bureau in Hohhot, the Inner Mongolian region's capital, said that future overseas visitors who wrote for permission to his office could be allowed to visit Xanadu.

Finally, as Inner Mongolian girls in traditional dresses presented the group with farewell bowls of fermented mare's milk — "for he on honey-dew hath fed, and drunk the milk of Paradise" — and sang the Mongolian equivalent of "Auld Lang Syne", Mr Si Qin asked us to send him a copy of Coleridge's masterpiece. In a sense, Coleridge has now come to Xanadu.

Leading article, page 23

Kubla Khan



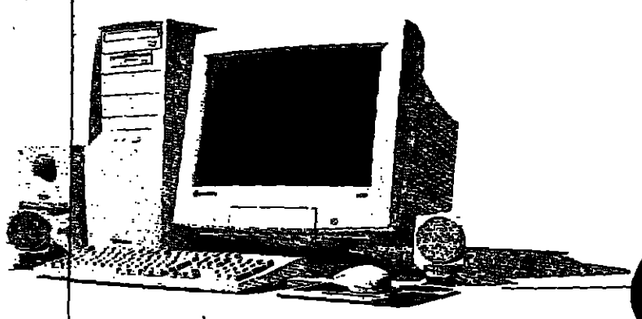
In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.
So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round:
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.

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Britons in Jakarta condemn embassy



David Watts reports on expatriates' calls for an inquiry into the alleged incompetence of diplomats during the riots

BRITONS trapped in the Indonesian violence are furious at what they say is the "gross incompetence and failure" of the British Embassy to offer the most basic service during a time of crisis.

A chorus of criticism is being led by William Keeling, a merchant banker, who is demanding an inquiry into failures at the embassy in Jakarta which he says should be laid at the feet of Robin *Christopher, the Ambassador.* He says the Foreign Office should publish details of the investigation and demonstrate the ability or otherwise of embassies around the world to give effective advice.

"I have lived in West Africa, and I know how to handle such situations," said Mr Keeling, speaking from Singapore. "I'm more concerned about the large number of inexperienced British tourists who travel abroad. There was no help for people like that," said Mr Keeling, who is head of Indonesia Research for Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

He said that he had twice called the mobile phone of a senior diplomat at the embassy and left messages, but had received no reply. A call made to the embassy by *The Times* had not been returned four days later.

Mr Keeling added: "On Thursday afternoon, before the rioting had peaked, a friend was able to contact the British Consulate, and was told to stay at home. On Friday, we heard on CNN Television that the British Embassy was telling its citizens to avoid possible trouble spots. Given that Jakarta was *in a total state of anarchy,* such advice was useless. How were we to know the location of potential trouble spots?

"On Saturday, thanks to the bravery of the *Jakarta Post*'s delivery boys, we finally read that the Foreign Office had followed the Americans by advising immediate evacuation. By that point, international companies were already arranging contingency evacuation flights for their employees.

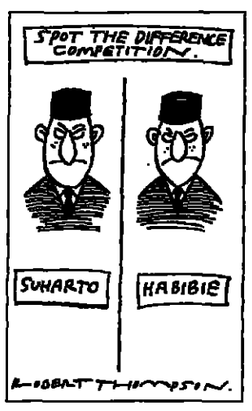
"It is important that British *citizens worldwide should be* aware of the gross incompetence and failure of the British Embassy in Jakarta to offer its citizens the most basic service, that of reasoned and accessible advice, during this time of crisis. Sadly, having lived in various developing countries for a decade, I believe the failure would occur in many of our embassies around the world," he wrote to *The Times*. "In the particular case of Indonesia, the ambassador, Robin Christopher, should be held accountable."

The British Embassy in Jakarta has a system of wardens put in charge of different areas. They are responsible for keeping those citizens registered up to date. There were also two 24-hour telephone hot lines giving out embassy advice. *The Foreign Office at the* time said there were up to 500 unregistered Britons in Indonesia as well as tourists.

In outlying areas such as Bandung, the system appears to have broken down and British residents said the warden fled at short notice. "Their attitude was very relaxed," said one Briton in Jakarta. "They were laughing at the Americans for over-reacting, but the Americans got aircraft into Jakarta airport, got the people out to the airport, and protected them while they were doing it."

A Malaysian woman eventually organised a charter flight from Bandung on which many Britons left. Others said they were able to get more information from the Australian and American embassies. *John Birchall, headmaster* of the British School, disagreed. He said the evacuation of his children had been well organised and efficient.

Escape from Jakarta, *Weekend*, page 1



Family has to miss wedding

THE unrest in Indonesia has prevented the family of a Briton from flying to his exotic wedding to a classical Indonesian singer in western Java today (David Watts writes).

"I'm gutted," said Matthew Ashworth, 26, whose parents live in Wivenhoe, near Colchester, Essex. His father, John, a former director of the London School of Economics, is chairman of the British Library. The bride-to-be, Hendrawati, is also 26.



AFP

Soldiers lower a portrait of former President Suharto in Jakarta yesterday

WORLD SUMMARY

Wildlife director sacked

Nairobi: Kenya's bankrupt wildlife service has suffered a blow with the dismissal of David Western, its director (David Orr writes). Dr Western, 53, said yesterday that, although he had been given no reason, he believed his dismissal was because of his refusal to go along with government-sponsored land seizures and the forcible annexation of land set aside for wildlife. His predecessor, Richard Leakey, was dismissed after standing up against corruption.

Bombing was by Saudis

Kuwait: Saudi citizens were behind the June 1996 bombing of a military housing complex that killed 19 American airmen, a Saudi official said. Saudi security sources had suggested that Iran played a role in the bombing of the complex near the eastern city of Dhahran. Scores of US soldiers were wounded. *(AP)*

Charlie Sheen took overdose

Los Angeles: Charlie Sheen, the actor, who said two years ago he was giving up drugs and alcohol, was in hospital recovering from a drug overdose at his Malibu home. The 32-year-old actor was in stable condition. His father, the actor Martin Sheen, was with him. *(AP)*

Algiers blast kills fifteen

Algiers: A bomb exploded in a packed market in an Algiers suburb, killing at least 15 people and wounding more than 30, hospital authorities said in a statement. At least three of the victims died in a resulting stampede, doctors said. The bomb exploded in a carton of vegetables. *(AP)*

Ten out of ten for cheating

Cairo: Two Egyptian education officials were sentenced to ten years' hard labour for selling exam papers to students. They were both also fined £350, the paper *Al-Gonhuriya* reported. *(AFP)*

Habibie keeps the cronies on board

BY DAVID WATTS

INDONESIA'S new President has dropped two cronies from his Cabinet but failed to put together a broad coalition to save the country.

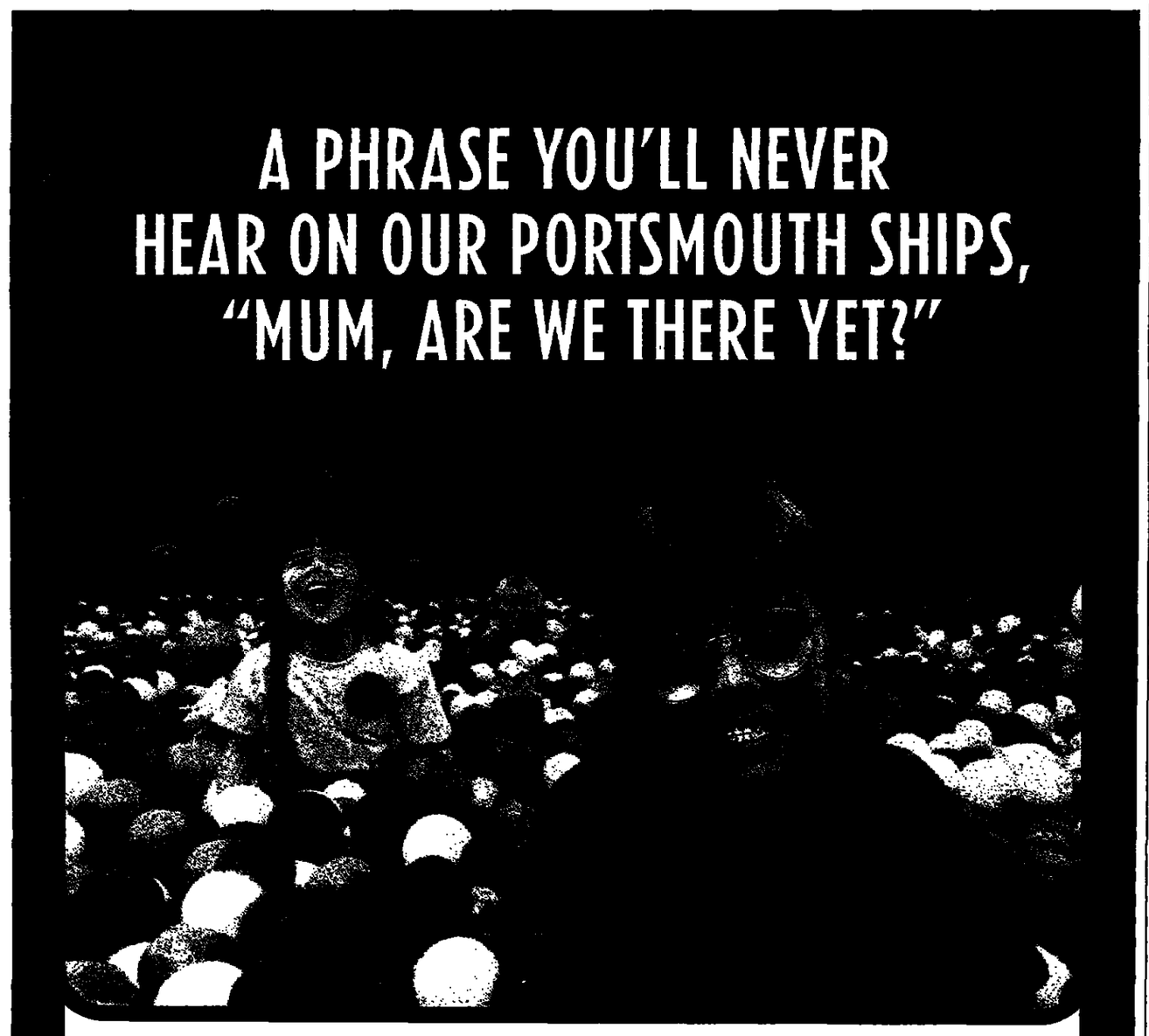
Despite a two-hour delay in the announcement of the new line-up amid speculation that *he would name opposition* figures, President Habibie was apparently unable to persuade anyone outside the elite to join him.

The only notable change was that he did not name a governor of the central bank and said that in future it would be independent.

Few believe the Government — derided as a Suharto Cabinet without Suharto — can last more than six months in its present form. Mr Suharto's daughter, Siti Hardianti Rukmana, was dropped as Social Affairs Minister, as was Muhammad "Bob" Hassan, the Minister of Trade. Mr Hassan is a long-time friend of the former President. The new Cabinet has a majority of Suharto-era figures and former military officers are in charge of the interior and information portfolios. General Wiranto, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, remains as Defence Minister, though it is believed *he privately opposed choosing* Mr Habibie as President.

Thousands of students, whose democracy reform demonstrations helped to push Mr Suharto from office, resumed their occupation of parliament but appeared to lose much of their drive. Many said they would not leave until Mr Habibie stepped down and genuine reform took place, but their leaders appeared split between anti-Habibie factions and those prepared to give him a chance.

Pro-Habibie students threw stones at their opponents, but one student said: "The fight has gone out of this country. People just want some peace and quiet. But maybe there will be trouble again later."



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Football legacy in transfer fee battle

BY STEPHEN FARRELL



A sculpture from the Fifa collection

AS FOOTBALL prepares for the razzmatazz of the World Cup, Fifa, its governing body, is having to field accusations of foul play over the sport's heritage. The Zurich-based Fifa is fighting a legal battle in the Swiss courts over ownership of the £1 million Fifa Museum Collection, due to go on display in England in 1999. The collection of more than 1,000 items of memorabilia, gathered over 30 years, has sat largely unseen in a storage room for two years.

It is jointly owned by Fifa and an American sports marketing company, SPI Management Group. Both want to sell it to a British museum but disagree over a price and how it should be used. SPI, which claims to own the exclusive worldwide merchandising rights, believes it can make money from posters, T-shirts, replica kits and postcards of the historical material.

It also accuses Fifa of owing it more than £330,000 in management fees and expenses in connection with previous exhibitions, and of trying to force SPI to sell its rights for a fraction of their real value. Fifa is less interested in licensing and simply wants to put the collection on display in a purpose-built £12 million museum at the Deepdale stadium in Lancashire, home of Preston North End, one of the Football League's founding teams.



Langton: "no one cared"

The governing body is thought to believe that SPI has overestimated the value of merchandise and challenges the size of the company's fees.

Alan Hoffman, SPI's vice-president and general counsel, insists that his company is simply seeking fair compensation. "It is a sorry day when it becomes necessary to go to court in order to force the world governing body of football to abide by their contract, live by their motto, 'For the Good of the Game', and exercise fair play," he said. "We want to retain our rights, or be paid properly for giving them up."

Keith Cooper, Fifa's director of communications, refused to discuss the row in detail but confirmed that it arose from the governing body's desire to acquire full ownership and SPI's claim to other rights.

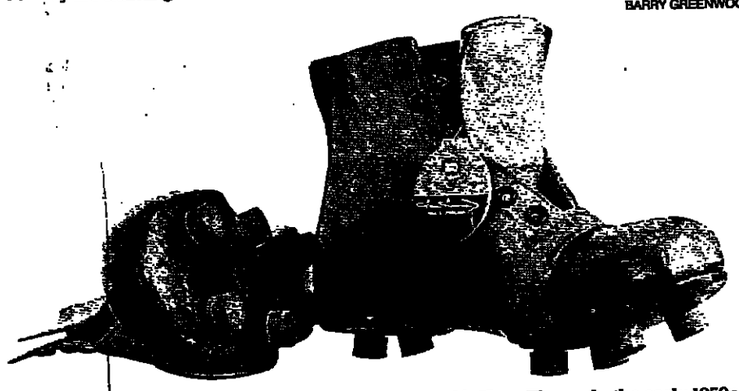
"We are not going to get into a slanging match with SPI. Frankly it is beneath Fifa to do that," he said. "The mere fact that we are in court is proof that we do not remotely accept what they are claiming. Fifa is an international institution of long standing and good reputation and never in its history has it been accused of the kind of behaviour which this organisation is alleging. We want to fulfil our obligation to the sport and to the Preston museum to save this collection for posterity."

The collection illustrates the history of football and early versions of the game in China, Greece, Rome and Japan. It includes what is believed to be the first table football game, from Preston in the 1880s; a print of the Japanese ceremonial game *kemari* played in an enclosure surrounded by sacred trees; a mid-19th century Harrow School ball more than twice the size of a modern football, and photographs and kit of 1890s women's teams.

It will be the centrepiece of the national football museum due to open next year at Deepdale, which was awarded a £7.65 million lottery grant last year. The curator, Robert Pratten, said the material was unique because it was collected in the decades before rare items became too expensive for all but the most wealthy individual collectors. "We are very disappointed that the legal position has dragged on, but we are confident it will be sorted out, and we have to be patient. It is out of our hands," he said.

Meanwhile, Harry Langton, the former sports journalist who put the collection together, ruefully blames the dispute on the influx of money into all aspects of the game, and its sudden elevation from working-class activity to middle-class pursuit. "When I was doing this in 1966, nobody gave a damn about the history of the game," he said.

BARRY GREENWOOD



Football boots endorsed by Preston North End's Sir Tom Finney in the early 1950s

Comics make it 1-0 to ITV

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV scored an early goal against the BBC in the World Cup TV battle yesterday as it launched Baddiel and Skinner's new fantasy football show.

Comedians David Baddiel and Frank Skinner announced last year that they were defecting from the BBC to ITV and taking their award-winning format with them.

They will now present four live shows a week for the duration of the World Cup, 16 in total, going on air only 40 minutes after the big match of the day has been played with virtually no time for rehearsal.

The comedy show is being tipped as one of the highlights of television's saturation coverage of the event. The presenters said ITV had given them a virtually free hand, although the use of one four-letter word had been forbidden.

Between them, ITV and the BBC will screen all 64 matches in more than 160 hours of live football from the tournament in France, sharing the England and Scotland matches between them.

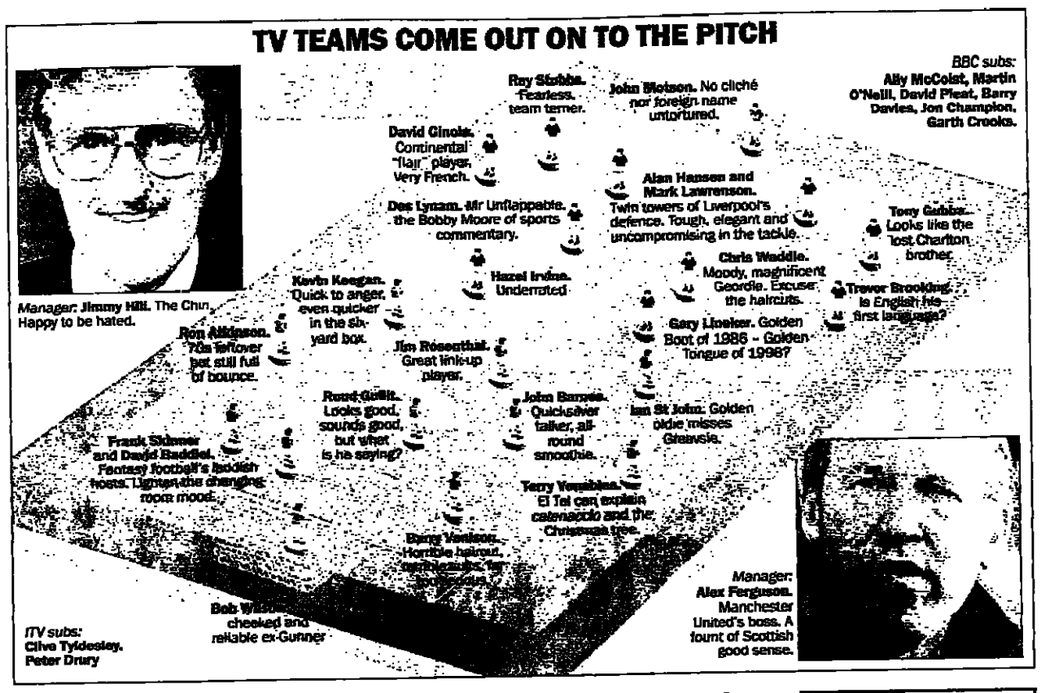
However, the BBC will get the first break, screening the opening match between Brazil and Scotland on June 10 and England's first game of the tournament against Tunisia in Marseilles on June 15. ITV follows with England v Romania on June 22 and Scotland v Norway on June 16 and has the first choice of the second-round games.

Both channels have now announced their World Cup commentary teams in what will be one of the most hotly contested battles. The BBC's Desmond Lynam and Gary Lineker will anchor the programme, with a commentary team of John Motson, Barry Davies, Tony Gubba, Jon Champion, Trevor Brooking and Chris Waddle. Analysts will include Alan Hansen, Jimmy Hill, David Ginola and Mark Lawrenson.

ITV has a line-up of Bob Wilson, Jim Rosenthal, Ruud Gullit, former England managers Terry Venables and Bobby Robson, Alex Ferguson, Kevin Keegan and Ron Atkinson. Both channels will screen the final. BBC executives say they will assess who between Motson and Davies has performed the better before deciding who will commentate on it.

Yesterday, asked whether their *Fantasy World Cup '98* show would alienate people who were not football fans, Frank Skinner said: "I haven't much time for people who don't like football, to be honest. I mean, you don't say to Rolf Harris (presenter of *Animal Hospital*) 'What about people who don't like wounded animals', do you?" They will present their show from a studio in the middle of the Wandsworth one-way system, although they may present one show live from France.

Yesterday Baddiel and Skinner also launched their new World Cup version of the Euro '96 anthem *Three Lions* with The Lightning Seeds, which is expected to go straight to number one in the charts. Skinner said the line "Bobby belting the ball" had originally been "Terry Butcher at war". However, the Football Association ruled that "football is not about war".



THE TIMES World Cup fantasy league
pages 38,39

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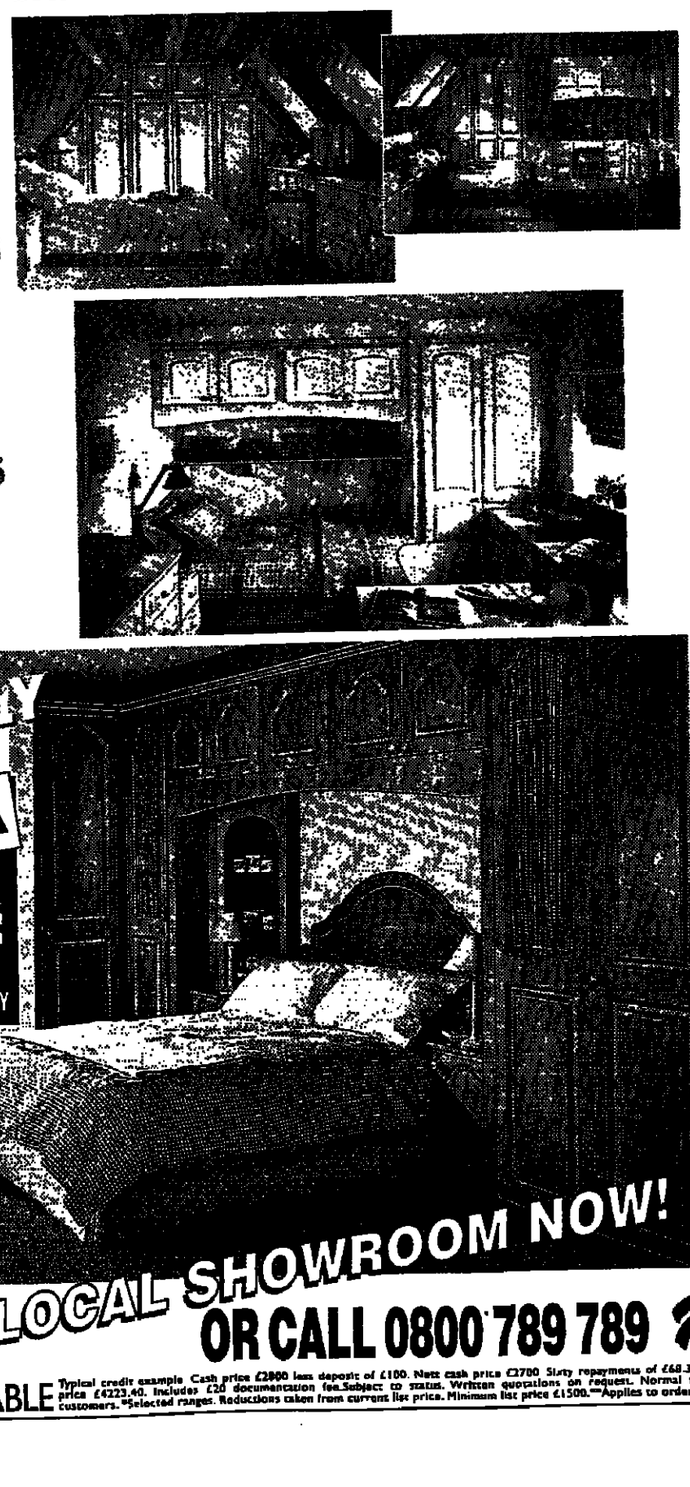
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Equal rights woman derides Labour's 'moaning minnies'

The new intake of female backbenchers are accused of being a disappointment, reports **Andrew Pierce**

LABOUR'S new intake of women MPs, already under fire from some male colleagues, were yesterday denounced as "moaning minnies" by a female adviser on equal rights.

Ann Carlton, the convener of Labour Supporters for Real Equality, dismissed the 65 women elected for the first time last year as the "whinger wing of Labour feminism".

The attack caused fury on the Labour back benches. In March, Tony Blair was forced to defend the women MPs after Brian Sedgemore, a veteran Labour MP, said they were so fawning to the party hierachy that they resembled the Stepford Wives with "chips inserted in their brains to keep them on message". The Prime Minister has dismissed the "Blair's Babes" tag as "infuriating and patronising".

The criticism from Ms Carlton, a former adviser to Tony Crosland, the late Labour Cabinet minister, caused further embarrassment to the party leadership. She said that the women had been a serious disappointment to those people who had expected them to make a positive impact on the quality of parliamentary life. She argued that the "sisters" spent too much time complaining about Parliament and the long hours they had to work and not enough time on genuine feminist causes.

Ms Carlton, in an article in the leftwing journal *Tribune*, headlined "From Blair's Babes to moaning minnies", said: "They are at it again — the whinger wing of Labour feminism, as confused as ever and wanting favours.

"If the whingers thought logically (a seeming impossibility) they would realise that women are not alone in being 'under-represented' in many of our democratic institutions — so, too, are black people."

Ms Carlton, who is married to the MP Denzil Davies, is a former local government convener. She said that those who believed lots of women MPs would change the nature of Labour politics must be disappointed. "The whingers' fixation with gender is so sadly dated. Society has moved on, but the sisters have not noticed."

But Fiona MacTaggart (Slough), one of the first members of the new intake to be promoted, said: "I do not think it is good for the cause of women to blame the women at Westminster. The timing of the criticism is extraordinary. It comes in a week when the first ever childcare strategy has been launched. It is also only days after Labour's *Fairness at Work* document."

Ms MacTaggart, who was appointed private secretary to the Culture Secretary in December, added: "The women are making a difference. We will continue to make a difference."

Siobhain McDonagh (Mitcham and Morden) said that a number of women MPs had complained, with some justification, about the long hours. "A balance has to be struck. But the new intake of women is bright, dedicated and hardworking, which is why we now have our first national childcare strategy."

Blair holds aces as pressure grows to shuffle pack

The jokers are set to be discarded as Mandelson plots his route to Cabinet, writes **Michael Gove**

THERE is only one journalist who really knows when the forthcoming government reshuffle will come — and on whose head the axe will fall. But even though he is Britain's most prolific columnist, this is one subject Tony Blair will not be writing about.

But there is considerable interest, well beyond Westminster, in the personalities who have impressed — and disappointed — Mr Blair over the past year. Reshuffle rumours have been circulating since Christmas, intensified around Easter, and have now become feverish.

The odds are against Mr Blair shuffling the pack as early as next week. There are stronger arguments for waiting until July. But there is only one Labour MP apart from Mr Blair who can afford to relax, secure in the knowledge he will not be moved.

For every one of the 400-odd others, there is the possibility of a call from Downing Street. The pressure for an early reshuffle — one next week — comes from the Minister desperate for a Portfolio. Since the beginning of the year, Peter Mandelson has been arguing for a tactical strike against weak ministers, a *schwerpunkt* directed at the party's soft underbelly.

Mr Mandelson's allies have pointed out there is no longer any profit in keeping obvious duffers in place. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, and David Clark, the Public Services Minister, are already Whitehall zombies.

The quicker a reshuffle comes, the quicker Mr Mandelson makes it to the Cabinet. And by way of balance at the elevation of so prominent a Blairite, the left-wing Strang can be replaced by the left-wing Industry Minister Ian McCartney.

With the physique of a Tolkien dwarf and the voice of Rab C. Nesbitt, Mr McCartney has one great virtue in the eyes of Mr Mandelson's supporters. Unlike Mr Strang, he is not a follower of Gordon Brown but a disciple of John Prescott.

Although it was Mr Prescott who once, cruelly, compared Mr Mandelson to a Japanese mitten crab, the Prescott team's sins in the eyes of the Mandelson camp are trivial in comparison. On such enmities are careers built.

One Blairite compares his own party to an African nation, with the division between Prescott supporters and Brown supporters better seen as a battle for supremacy between Hutus and Tutsis than a principled struggle between Right and Left.

There are three reasons why any reshuffle before July would have to be minimal.

Firstly, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Alistair Darling, who is tipped to take over as Social Security Secretary, will not be free to do so until after he has completed the comprehensive spending review. Secondly, many ministers have responsibilities associated with the British Presidency of the EU from which they cannot be moved until the end of next month. Thirdly, several ministers who deserve promotion are still steering legislation through Parliament, and an already clogged parliamentary timetable would not be helped by shifting those who have become masters of their briefs.

By waiting until July, the scope for creative butchery is greater. But the Prime Minister, apparently, has no wish to glut on blood. Some Blair supporters privately despair at his tender-heartedness towards colleagues. They argue he should never even have allowed MPs such as the Film Minister Tom Clarke, the Mr Magoo of Whitehall, anywhere near a red box, let alone think of leaving him in place. But even without giving Mr Clarke more time to spend at the flicks, there is scope for big changes.

Apart from Mr Clark and Mr Strang, the two most likely Cabinet casualties are the Leader of the House, Ann Taylor, and the Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham. Dr Cunningham's reputation as a safe pair of hands has gone the way of the British beef industry and Number Ten would be happy to see him humanely deboned. Ms Taylor is less of a liability, but blame has been laid at her door for a clogged legislative timetable and the bad publicity which suggested the Queen was offended by the downgrading of the State Opening of Parliament.

The other Cabinet changes under consideration include the demotion of Harriet Harman, possibly to Attorney-General or Minister for Women, operating out of the Cabinet Office. Neither option is entirely satisfactory. Ms Harman has no great love for the law and Mr Blair no great love for the Kinnockite tokenism of "wimmin's" ministers. Ms Harman might be made Leader of the House, but a better bet for that role is Margaret Beckett, a skilled politician thought to have been insufficently pro-business at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Once they are gone, there is room to promote the "likely lads" from the North East, the Health Minister Alan Milburn and the Education Minister Stephen Byers. They could be joined by one of the Government's "wonder women": the Treasury Minister Helen Liddell, the Health Minister Tessa Jowell, or the Local Government Minister, Hilary Armstrong.

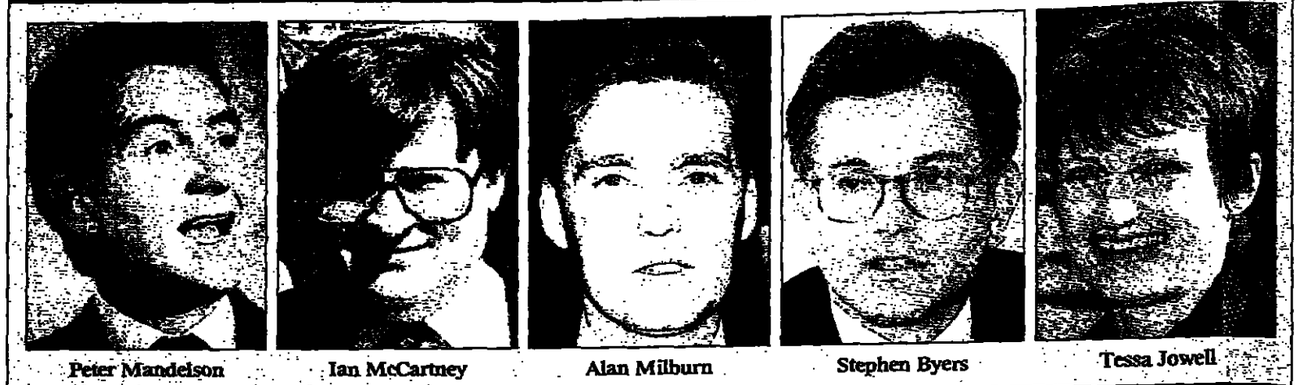
Further down the government ranks those ministers too talentless even to be nearly-men could be cleared out. Tony Lloyd and Doug Henderson should get the air miles in while they are still at the Foreign Office, and Museums Minister Mark Fisher is set to become history.

But there is, as remarked earlier, one minister who is immovable. Although his Green Paper was less radical than advertised, Frank Field — like child benefit — can never be got rid of.

Moving him would offend new Labour's new friends — especially those in the press who are so happy to accept Mr Blair's regular articles.

Leading article, page 23

LIKELY WINNERS OF A CABINET RESHUFFLE . . .



Peter Mandelson — Ian McCartney — Alan Milburn — Stephen Byers — Tessa Jowell

. . . AND THE PROBABLE LOSERS



Jack Cunningham — Ann Taylor — Gavin Strang — David Clark — Harriet Harman

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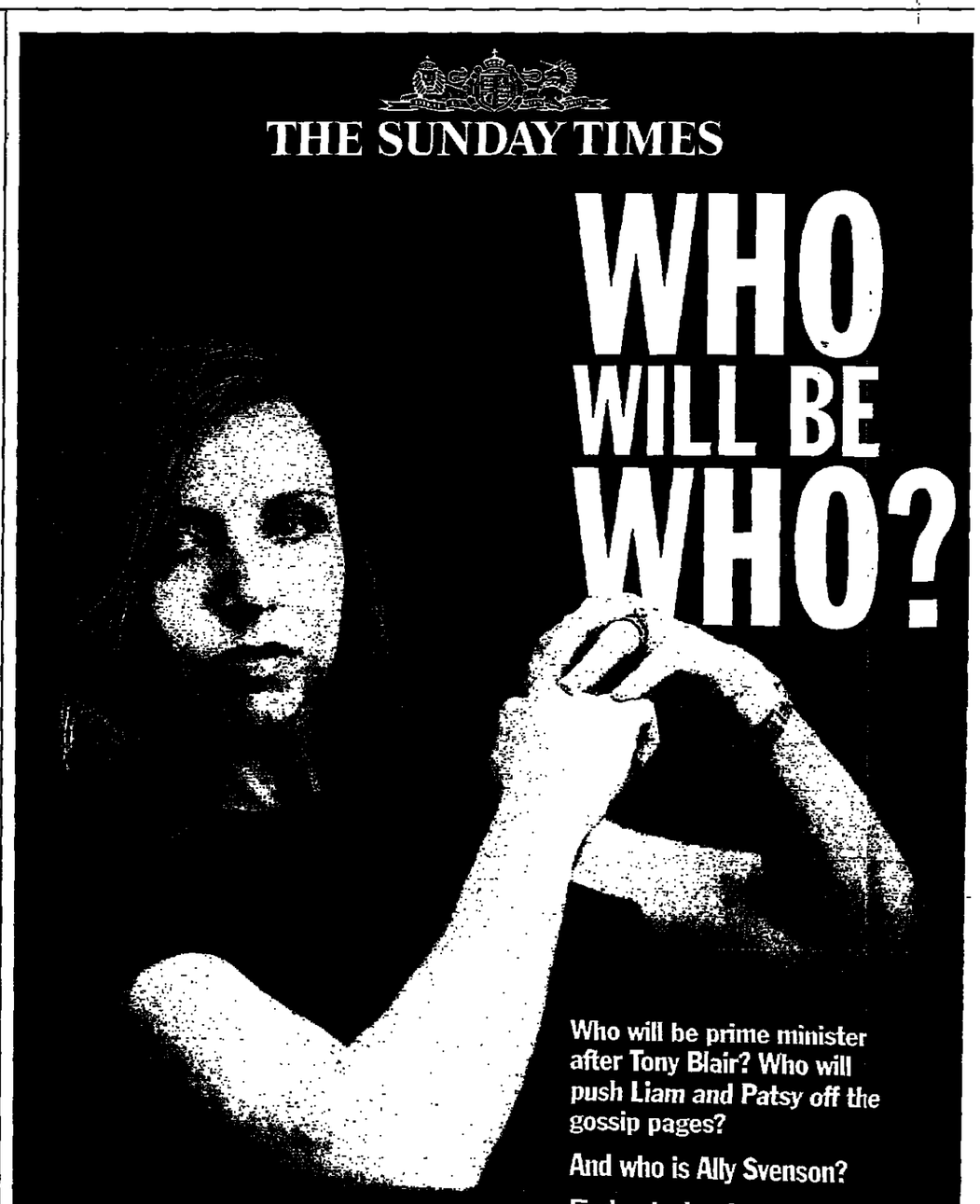
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TIM08

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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VALERIE GROVE: European women in Saudi society

Fortune-hunters in a veil

Why does a woman go to work in Saudi Arabia? Why does anyone? For money, is the brutal answer. You offer a slice of your life in return for cash. It's a calculated deal.

Once it was the lure of romance. Lesley Blanch's classic *The Wilder Shores of Love* told how grand Western ladies such as Jane Digby and Isabelle Eberhardt responded to the exotic call of the East, their senses lulled by the heady perfumes of Araby.

Carmel Mackey, who first went out from Belfast to nurse in Saudi Arabia in 1976, runs HCA International in north London, recruiting nurses (8,000 of them in 16 years) for the King Faisal Hospital in Riyadh.

Today nurses who might once have gone to Canada or the United States (both closed now) choose Saudi for the package: salary, accommodation and the opportunity to advance their skills in a stunningly equipped modern hospital. They get £20,000-£21,000 a year with no overheads or bills. They can save a lump sum and bring home a deposit for a flat. "It's a stepping stone, and an adventure. With 50 days' holiday a year, they can jet off to Sydney, Thailand, Bali, Egypt, or a Kenyan safari." And do they find Mr Right?

"Do they! If I had £100 for every girl who's married someone she met in Saudi, I'd be rich," enthuses Mrs Mackey. "They meet Australians, Canadians, Americans, South Africans. And men working at British Aerospace. The expats socialise together. There are marvellous sports facilities, art clubs, drama groups, guest speakers and dinners. And in the compounds there's always something going on. On Burns Night everyone's a Scot, and on St Patrick's Day everyone's Irish."

There is a recruitment shortage these days: Mrs Mackey used to get 40 to 50 applications a day and take 30 a month. Now, she receives 30 to 40 CVs a week, taking five to ten a month. Most stay three to five years.

"And it transforms their lives. I remember recruiting a girl from Liverpool who couldn't even afford the train fare to London. Four years later she rang me on a trip home and she was flying back to Saudi via Istanbul so she could buy a black leather trouser suit she'd seen in the airport."

What about the restrictions — not being allowed to drive, having to wear the all-enveloping *abaya*? "How many nurses do you know who drive cars? Everyone uses taxis and there's a free shuttle bus from the hospital. They wear their Western clothes under the *abaya*, just throw it on like a graduation gown. You get used to that — and it's a very elegant garment."

Anyway, it's a different country today, more liberal and less segregated than when Mrs Mackey first went. "I knew nothing about homosexuality and drugs before. And gay men are exceptionally happy there."

Wives who accompany husbands to Saudi tell a different tale, most graphically described in Hilary Mantel's *Eight Months on Gazzah Street*. Hilary spent four years imprisoned as an expatriate wife in Jeddah, and won the Shiva Naipaul Prize in 1987 for her essay about its Kafkaesque cartography, its oily sea, the murderous pace of its roads, its ghettos of palaces for princelings and walled compounds for expatriates, and chaperoned women shopping for furs and diamonds in vast, glittering malls.

She might watch television (mostly *A Reading from the Holy Koran*) or go to ladies' coffee mornings. If she went out on the balcony, men stared and made gestures. Her neighbour, a veiled shape under her *abaya*, wanted to know: "What is it like to sit and drink alcohol and talk to your husband's friends?" She could never have worked, except in a girls' primary school or a women's hospital. Did not the Koran declare, "Men are in charge of women, for Allah hath made one of them to excel the other?" "The newspapers say there is no crime in Saudi Arabia," wrote Mantel, "but there are punishments. A woman can be stoned to death."

In 1978, Robert Lacey took his wife Sandi to Saudi Arabia for two years when writing his bestselling history, *The Kingdom*. Before they left he gave her a surprise party: guests in *djellabahs* and teatowels, the living room tented with cushions, platters of sheep's eyeballs. Mrs Lacey was not amused: she was appalled by the prospect of being unable to work or drive, or wear what she liked, or travel without her husband's permission. She hoped for compensations — romantic deserts — but found that running a house in downtown Jeddah, where oppressive heat and humidity hit you like a wall, with no telephone, theatre or cinema, hairdresser or libraries, was an occupation.

"Only men sat in restaurants doing business. After a year I told an American friend, 'I've got to go out for a girls' lunch'. We told my driver who spoke no English to take us to the Sands Hotel and he refused at first: he thought we were going to pick up men. We ordered a bottle of Saudi champagne — apple juice, mixed with Perrier. That was a highlight."

Sandi Lacey believes: "Any woman who goes out there to work is actually throwing up her hands and saying, 'I must change my life. I'll try anything'. Nurses and air hostesses go there hoping to find an American executive or an oil sheikh. A bit like being a girl groom, hoping to marry a polo player. It's all about money, sex and the Lawrence of Arabia fantasy. The wildest parties I went to there were the doctors' parties, with home-made hooch. I've never seen people as legless as in Saudi."

But there is no point, she says, in taking an arrogant European attitude. "It's made very clear to people what the rules are. Trying to live like a European won't work. And there are enormous benefits. To punish wrongdoing in extreme ways sounds barbaric — after the siege of Mecca they broadcast a roll call of the people they'd executed — but on the other hand, I have never felt safer in my life. Old people are looked after, children are loved and cherished. And being with women who didn't speak English but were extremely kind made me realise how important women can be to each other."

She also decided that the black silk *abaya* was actually very becoming, and the veil rather sexy. Two years of protected subjection had made her more relaxed, appreciative of soothing rituals like cardamon coffee and dates every morning at 11, and the muezzin calling five times a day. "It's a bit like being a hostage — after a while you start to love your captor."

Her husband, embroiled in research, loved it all. And they came home together. "Busy husbands and unemployed wives usually spells trouble. A friend said we are the only people he knows who stayed married after being in Saudi Arabia."

Saudi women pity their Western sisters, as Mantel notes, for being lured from the security of their proper domain at home to be slaves in offices, losing respect and protection. "Their honour has been sold; their bodies are common property. Liberation, say the Saudi women, is a creed for fools."



Sandi Lacey on a desert trip with Beduin guides. "It's a bit like being a hostage — after a while you start to love your captor," she says of living in Saudi Arabia

Nurse 'confessions' destroy Saudi case



By Michael Dynes

THE evidence seemed overwhelming. Two written confessions, each authenticated with a thumbprint, proved beyond doubt Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, the British nurses, murdered Yvonne Gilford.

Parry had admitted stabbing their Australian colleague in the breast, neck and upper back. McLauchlan held a pillow over Ms Gilford's face until she stopped breathing. The spasm of savagery had been sparked off by a broken lesbian affair. McLauchlan admitted taking Ms Gilford's cash card and had drawn money.

The word on the diplomatic grapevine out of Saudi Arabia, moreover, was that the nurses were guilty as charged. Until the *Panorama* broadcast on Thursday, I was convinced they were guilty. But the process by which those confessions were obtained, and the inconsistencies they contained, kindled my doubts over their culpability. The evidence of Dr Eric Shepherd, a forensic psychologist who has unearthed false confessions in miscarriages of justice in Britain, convinced me that the nurses' confessions were bogus.

The process by which *Panorama* alleged that the confessions were obtained could not be dismissed easily. Each confession appears to have been drafted, redrafted, edited and polished, until they corroborated each other in the minutest detail.

The earlier drafts failed to achieve this, but the final draft was more successful. Initially, I had thought that the similarity of the confessions was proof of guilt. Now I was not so sure. The possibility that the confessions were written by Major Hammed, the head of the investigation, could no longer be dismissed.

Panorama failed to convince me that Parry and McLauchlan are innocent. But I have been shorn of my conviction they are guilty.

Rehearsal format misses the plot

OPERA

Così fan tutte
Glyndebourne

THERE is a dangerous moment in the first act of Graham Vick's production of Mozart's comedy. "I've had enough. I'm angry." flashed up on the subtitle board, which more or less summed up my feelings at that point. It seemed an awfully lazy enterprise, especially to open Glyndebourne's 1998 season.

The action is set in Richard Hudson's plain, off-white rehearsal room, with two radiators and a telephone. Stage staff bring on office chairs and props as needed, and cue some of the singers' entrances. Flat, white "working lights" are reproduced, even in the auditorium, for too much of the time. The cast wears rehearsal gear and opera singers' figures are not, on the whole, flattered by jeans. The disguise element is virtually ignored. This is an evening decidedly short on visual charm.

The notion of Don Alfonso "directing" the brother officers, who enter with scripts in hand, is soon dropped — anyone could see it would not work. Indeed, it is hard to discern the purpose of the rehearsal format: Vick doesn't use it to grant the characters an extra dimension, "real life" added to "opera". It is just a very ordinary production of *Così* without decor, reinforcing the impression that Vick is seldom wholly at ease with comedy. And the "rehearsal" is plainly an early one, early enough for the management to step in and pull the plug on the whole jolly shooting match. Some hope.

Things look up in Act II, when the comedy takes a darker turn and the men fall out terminally: the whole sequence of Guglielmo revealing Dorabella's faithlessness to Ferrando, and Ferrando exacting his revenge, shows Vick at his best — good, black stuff — though he seems less interested in the women, who are just flighty airheads. And it was here that Andrew Davis's conducting, hitherto workmanlike if not bland, finally took wing, and we got some impression of what this score can yield.

The cast, though, led by Alan Opie's experienced Alfonso and Daniela Mazzucato's delicious Despina-of-a-certain-age, is real Glyndebourne. Barbara Frittoli sings Fiordiligi with that perfect combination of voluptuous tone and technical ease: the fireworks of *Come scoglio* were all the more thrilling for there being no sense of strain. Katarina Karnéus (Dorabella) has a mezzo of coppery individuality.

Maybe Natale De Carolis conveys more of Guglielmo's experience through his acting than his singing, but he conveys a lot. Roberto Saccà gamely plays Ferrando as an obnoxious twerp, and while his slightly metallic tenor may not be intrinsically beautiful, anyone who can get through the frequently cut *Ah, lo veggio* with such ease gets my vote: this was truly virtuoso singing.

Rodney Milnes

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After all the shock comes the neurosis

Dick Price introduces New Neurotic Realism, a fresh trend in British art



Rave (After Poussin's Triumph of Pan) is by Martin Maloney, one of a group of new artists collected by Charles Saatchi

After Sensation, what next? The art world hums with gossip and speculation. Now that the young British artists, once so radical, have been enshrined by the Establishment — their work exhibited at the Royal Academy, sold at auction for eyestretching sums — everyone is wondering what could possibly follow to keep the excitement of the British art scene alive. Students look for ways to navigate the legacy left to them.

Now, a new group of young artists is surfacing with a body of work which looks and feels distinctly different. A fresh trend is emerging, swimming against the currents of the past few years. If the work of the Young British Artists could be broadly summed up as an ironical challenge to conventions of form and good taste, as a treatment of artist as a subject, then the art which is now emerging into view reacts against this by shaking off the ironical one-liner stance, the cynical indifference, the cult of artist as superstar.

The group is a loose one, of course. There is no defined manifesto, no pre-agreed stance, and many of the artists, when they first assemble at a launch next week, will never have met one another before. But many, too, will know each other, will have discussed and reacted to each other's ideas. And what coheres this fresh trend into a movement is that Charles Saatchi is publishing a catalogue of the work of these artists next week and is exhibiting them together as a group in his gallery next year. He has painstakingly sought out these new artists from art school degree shows, from artist-run spaces and small independent galleries, and recognised a common theme. Photography, painting and sculpture (a term which no longer accurately describes the diverse practices of three-dimensional work) are grouped together under the umbrella title New Neurotic Realism.

This title reflects a strange psychology which permeates the work, whether it be the obsessional tendencies in how it is made and conceived or the disturbing heightened feelings which it arouses. A late entry to the *Sensation* show was *Dead Dad*, Ron Mueck's perfectly made hyper-real miniaturised version of his father's corpse. Lovingly completed, this piece of work broke what can be seen as a new taboo. Mueck makes an emotional sculpture, daring in its depth of feeling. He turns an intense personal encounter back into a shared experience.

Central to the new trend, the work of Mueck makes particular sense. Using fiction as a common starting point, many of the artists play with the idea of a collective memory. Imagery is used to trigger recollections of moments in films, books or paintings — moments which can seem as real as any actual memory — and encourage the viewer to add something else to that personal memory.

Thus, although the sculpture of this grouping has no one particular "look", the work of an artist such as Steven Gontarski, who uses clear plastic sheeting and stuffing to make replicant Guy Fawkes dolls, cheekily harks back to Henry Moore. Bryan Cyril Griffiths creates an extraordinary domestic science fiction in a cardboard-crafted interior of a spacecraft. And always central is the craftsmanship. There are no more trips to the junk shop, the skip, the greengrocer's or the abattoir to cobble together ready-mades.

Photography is particularly interesting in this new collection. It seems more relaxed and richer in content than before. It is finally freed from the feeling that it has to prove itself as a genuine art form; some of the previous "artyness" has evaporated. Sarah Jones alludes to the quiet tradition of Dutch genre painting in her obsessively observed depictions of a posh, English internal world of spotless dining rooms inhabited by teenage girls. And yet her work is savvy both to Girl Power and the implications of a patriarchal past.

The shock of such themes as sex, violence and death, the aggression which has been so fashionable, are no longer central to this group. Artists are content with a more mediated vision, confident that they have nothing to prove, and yet, at the same time, determined to prove it.

While photography has allowed itself to depict and reflect, painting has been beating itself up for most of this decade. Diminished in its expressive resources, it has been unsure what it was allowed to do. Now many of the artists are starting to form a new relationship with the canvas, making paintings which are sophisticated in their knowingness but not afraid to draw on traditional forms.

Martin Maloney's work is an affirmation of the pleasure of painting but firmly placed in the here and now. One large canvas, *Rave (after Poussin's Triumph of Pan)*, sees half-clad figures gyrating in an explosion of brightly coloured Expressionism. Maloney is at ease with freewheeling associations of youth culture with art history.

The return of the brush mark is also evident in the sexually charged canvases of Cecily Brown which depict an apocalyptic orgy of bodies like a late 20th-century Richard Dadd. Painters have become particularly interested in detail. At ease with the obsession of making, whether it be an unhealthy fascination with clothes or hairstyles, they deploy techniques to create meticulously worked surfaces picking up on the eccentric English realism of such artists as Stanley Spencer or the spooky Gothic doom of the American painter Andrew Wyeth.

This group of artists is continuing to reinvent art for itself. Using neurotic psychology as an accepted subject, documentary methods to unearth a realist content and revisiting traditional forms on the way, these artists are presenting us with something we can sink our teeth into.

Dick Price wrote an introduction to The New Neurotic Realism, *Saatchi Gallery.*

Lessons of a modern princess

Japan's court has its own Diana, says Joanna Pitman

When Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrive in Britain next week, their every public move and every public word will be prearranged for maximum formality and minimum controversy. The Japanese Imperial Family is still extremely old-fashioned in comparison with Britain's royals. Little of significance has been allowed to change in the past half-century and imperial courtiers, famous for their granite-like conservatism, are hoping to keep things that way.

But an agent of change is already lodged inside the palace walls. Crown Princess Masako, who married Crown Prince Naruhito, Japan's future Emperor, five years ago, is a modern, cosmopolitan and well-educated woman who, like Diana, Princess of Wales, is the first postwar-generation monarchical spouse to take up residence in the palace.

Courtiers from the Imperial Household Agency, the august body of mandarins whose job is to maintain the veil of mystery that shrouds the imperial throne, have privately acknowledged that, of all the imperial personalities whose public appearances they are required to control, the one they most fear is Crown Princess Masako. For Masako arrived at court with an independent, self-assertive and to some extent feminist spirit — just like Diana, but more so because she had already proved her capabilities in a highly competitive career environment.

Masako comes from a long line of noble samurai lords, scholars, administrators and businessmen. The daughter of a high-flying foreign ministry mandarin, she speaks English, Russian, French and German. She studied economics at Harvard, quickly passed Foreign Ministry exams in Tokyo and read international relations at Balliol before returning to work in Japan.

The wooing of Masako took the Crown Prince seven years and cost him three refusals before her father and the present Empress intervened to remind her of her duty to Japan. Eventually she capitulated and the wedding took place in 1993, with a lavish national celebration of Masako as just the sort of symbol of progress and enlightenment that Japan always craves.

Since then, Masako has all but dropped out of sight. Her days are spent quietly in the palace studying the stifling intricacies of court history, poetry, imperial etiquette and its stilted elocution. She is dressed by venerable chamberlains who stock her wardrobe with plain and parsimonious pastel suits. She emerges from her isolation to smile demurely at state occasions, always positioned three paces behind her husband. And she bears the accumulated hardcore curiosity of 125 million Japanese wondering why she has not yet done her duty and produced an heir.

But Masako is too Westernised, too modernised and too highly educated to sit back and play the role of animated shop-window dummy for ever. She will have recognised the struggle that Diana had with Buckingham Palace in trying to modernise her role. Masako has a similar battle ahead of her. She will need more support from her husband than Diana got from Charles. And if another tragedy is to be avoided, the Japanese court and media must both tread more carefully with the precious new symbol they so proudly celebrated five years ago. They should look after her. She is, in many ways, one of Japan's greatest assets.

Media, truth and consequences

The nurses' case has exposed the hypocrisy of press regulation

Simon Jenkins

Readers of *The Mirror* and *The Express* are being treated to the "true" stories of the two British nurses released from Saudi Arabia after their conviction for murder. Each was paid more than £100,000 by the newspapers to protest their innocence and tell harrowing tales of Saudi justice. Another payment, of £700,000, is to be paid by a business consortium to the Australian family of the woman they were convicted of murdering. The payments have been described as blood money by some and as compensation by others. When I passed the Old Bailey yesterday, I distinctly saw Justice take off her blindfold and wink.

For those with a taste for hypocrisy, mendacity, shamelessness and greed, nothing beats a good press row — and that, as Gibbon said, ignores all serious charges. Yesterday saw the losers in the bidding war for the nurses' story, including the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*, accuse the winners of a scandalous breach of ethics. The winners duly derided them as hypocrites and cited everything from the national interest to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They then plunged into lurid tales of unspeakable things done to innocent white girls by merciless Arab "torturers".

I have some residual sympathy for the editors in the case. Fleet Street circulation wars are now of unprecedented ferocity. Like Great War officers, editors are expected by their troops to go first over the top, hurling ethical prudence to the winds and leaving the padres to bless the dead. Proprietors ask no questions of victory. "Letters to the Editor" handles disgusted readers.

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) supposedly polices this war with its own Geneva Convention. A code of practice forbids payments to convicted criminals or their families, alongside rules on privacy, the protection of minors and such lesser concerns as telling the truth. I notice that in the nurses' case, *The Express*'s Editor, Rosie Boycott, took time off to ask the PCC for moral guidance. She said on radio that it was "very relaxed" about her conduct. Not for nothing does *The Express* carry the Crusader on its masthead. The wise knight always makes confession before going to the Holy Land.

The Saudi nurses are wallowing in an ethical morass. Let us assume that they are victims of a miscarriage of justice. They have a story to tell that is bound to capture the attention of readers and, appropriately spiced, will travel the globe. A maiden seized and abused on a foreign shore is always good copy. Helen of Troy launched not just a thousand ships but a thousand circulation wars. And if Homer is off sick, then *The Express* will have to do. Yesterday it struggled to get the words "lesbian", "rape", "pubic" and "erection" into its story.

The scope for synthetic moralising has been almost unlimited. The women's release involved a payment to the victim's family and intense political and diplomatic pressure on the Saudi regime. Such incidents are not uncommon, witness businessmen in Iraq, journalists in Lebanon, drug users in Thailand and "hostages" in Chechnya, Kashmir, Cambodia and Yemen. But here was richer pasture. An Australian family demands an Englishwoman's beheading. British diplomats are accused of ignoring British citizens for the sake of £2 billion in defence contracts. Tony Blair is accused of interfering in the Saudi judicial system by lobbying King Fahd. The women are accused of endangering future British victims of Saudi justice by selling torture stories to the tabloids. The tabloids are accused of exacerbating this danger and breaking their ethical code.

Yet the payments are made and the stories told. Nothing can stop this happening. Earlier this month, *The Times* serialised the Mary Bell book and *The Daily Telegraph* serialised the Sean O'Callaghan book. Farther back were the serialisation of stories by Sonia Sutcliffe, Howard Marks and Nick Leeson. Beyond these were a hundred true-life confessions, jailhouse repentances and fistfuls of fivers to witnesses at the courtroom door. The issue is not crime but fame, and fame always has a price on its head. Fame is best if spiked with notoriety, notoriety best if spiked with criminal conviction. But only the conviction brings censure on a payment. You may profit from any amount of vengeance, spite, scorned love or worsted ambition. You may not profit from a conviction.

I can only say, pull the other one. The PCC rule on media payments to criminals has as its rubric "Coach and horses drive this way". In the first place, the commission has no remit over publishers and film-makers, occupations notoriously free of the ethical constraints expected of journalism. Payments to such sources as Howard Marks, Nick Leeson or Mary Bell can thus be laundered through a whole sequence of agents. They are hardly "payments for crime" but for material in the public domain. The only requirement appears to be that agents must not be members of the criminal's family.

In addition, newspapers do not appear to regard the code as applying to foreign convictions. *The Mirror*'s Editor, Piers Morgan, said yesterday that it was for him to "exercise judgment" on the nurses' guilt or innocence. He decided that the nurses were "innocent in the eye of the law". That was that. Meanwhile Louise Woodward, the British nanny waiting the outcome of her manslaughter appeal in Boston, has a large sum on her head. Should her guilt be confirmed, I am sure every British tabloid will declare her the innocent victim of foreign justice and offer her cash for the truth. I am sure readers will stop only briefly to deplore the payment as they rush out to buy.

Like most press codes, the PCC invites any paper to show that its payment is "in the public interest". (To which a shrewd editor replies that he only publishes stories of interest to the public.) In a bizarre pair of recent judgments, the PCC found that Darius Guppy's tale of fraud was "not in the public interest" and had been unethically remunerated by *Hello!* magazine. Yet Nick Leeson's tale of woe at Barings would serve as a warning to future derivatives traders and could thus be richly rewarded. The only conclusion is that, to profit from a conviction, you must ruin an entire bank, not just your family.

This form of pseudo-judicial regulation is senseless. The regulator's teeth are so rubbery that the regulated make their own rules as they go along. In both the Mary Bell and Saudi cases, the newspapers concerned called the PCC for prior "clarification". In the Bell case, her punishment was long ago completed and payment was for a book already written. The Saudi nurses may have been victims of foreign injustice, but that is no defence under the code. There can be little "public interest" in showing what can happen to nurses in primitive dictatorships. I imagine the PCC will find a way of getting both cases off any moral hook. Perhaps it will say both are "publicly interesting" and leave them at that.

This code is vague and unenforceable, a classic of over-fussy regulation to appease general public disquiet. To make such rules applicable, they must be written as laws, yet they are then so brittle as to be certain to crack under strain. Payments for stories are essentially a matter of shifting judgment and taste, whether the stories are about punished crimes or unfaithful spouses or former bosses. Yet the PCC cannot condemn at the time of maximum public outrage, because it must operate a quasi-judicial procedure. The PCC chairman, Lord Wakeham, must confront such outrages as the last bout of Diana "revelations" with an anguished whimper, for fear of prejudicing some future hearing.

I did not agree with Mr Blair's diatribe against the Mary Bell book. But the media does many things that dismay the public. The best response is either not to buy the relevant newspaper or to join Mr Blair's excoriation. Naming and shaming newspapers, editors, authors and journalists is a better way of assuaging public outrage than awaiting the outcome of some belated tribunal. That is one beneficial outcome of this week's press rivalry. Hypocrisy is always better than humbug. So we should criticise, lecture, admonish more, and adjudicate less. An occasional outburst from "Disgusted, Downing Street" is likely to raise more headlines than a dozen codes of practice.

Sworn in

PORT was spluttered over club ties the other night when Germaine Greer addressed the slumbering gents of a Pall Mall club: the "F" word count for her speech? 17. The feminist's invitation came after the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club's decision to admit women members, ending two centuries of tradition. By the time Ms Greer sat down, some of the club's more sensitive gents were beginning to reflect on their decision in maudlin fashion. Ms Greer (pictured), a Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, had been invited to address "the situation of women at Oxbridge".



The authoress and one-time man-eater argued that it was difficult for women to feel comfortable in the all-male, collegiate atmosphere; and as the language grew fruitier, the audience also began to feel decidedly less comfortable. Most gin-slurpers began counting her uses of that most primitive word — until they ran out of fingers.

Lord St John of Fawsley (also pictured), former Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, murmurs: "My capacity for being shocked by Germaine has long been exhausted. And as for her theory, the star of women at Oxbridge is in the ascendant."

More fun looms: the next speaker will be one Sir Nicholas Scott, the thirsty former minister.



● *THE anarchist pop group which doused John Prescott with water is being made to suffer for its idiotic prank. Danbert Nobacon, the Chumbawamba singer who wielded the ice-bucket, says: "My Mum received four death threats after the papers published pictures of the house where I grew up in Burnley." Audiences at the band's shows have responded suitably: "People started throwing bottles at us and we haven't had that for years." News that Mr Prescott will find most distressing.*

Junk bonds

CLARE SHORT has issued an embarrassing rebuke to Peter Mandelson. The cantankerous left-winger has indicated that one of Mandelson's most treasured plans is unworkable. Punters at the Dome were to be offered "millennium bonds" to help to cancel Third World debt, which would be put on a symbolic fire. In a letter to an MP, she mocks the "so-called Bondfire Project" and discloses that she has written to Mandelson to explain that it would give millions to rich countries who held the debt and do nothing for poor countries.

After "careful consultation" with Gordon Brown, Short declares that "the proposal is being revised" — or that the bonds have been junked. Brown was unhappy with Mandelson's plan because it undermined his puritan attempts to encourage Third World countries to be self-sufficient. Francis Maude, the Tory Culture spokesman, is gleeful: "Quite extraordinary."

THE TIMES DIARY

JASPER GERARD

● *EDWINA CURRIE has bid £2,500 to judge a homosexual beauty contest. The former MP did so at the Savoy on Thursday night at a Stonewall dinner, egged on by Ned Sherrin. With commendable self-sacrifice, she has donated her purchase to her daughter, Debbie.*



What a gay day: Debbie Currie

Both women, apparently, often find gay men more attractive than straighter sorts. "The guests were all terribly smart," says Mrs C. "Only one leather jacket and one pair of fishnets."

Rag week

HOW refreshing that *The Independent*, once such a sanctimonious opponent of competitive pricing, is to take action to increase its select band of readers. To celebrate the historic Irish vote, the paper is to be packaged up next week with the *Irish Independent* for just 50p a throw — 35p less than the Dublin paper normally sells for on its own. Either the *Irish Independent* is expecting a sales boost (unlikely, I suspect) or it would seem to be a cunning plot by the proprietor of both papers, Tony O'Reilly, to boost the sales figures of his ailing London title. I felt obliged to discuss this with the Audit Bureau of Circulations, which takes an old-fashioned view of such enterprising initiatives. "We will have to take a close look at this promotion and contact the publisher," it says. "It is very unusual for a newspaper to be given away free."

● *THE old boys at Lord's seem to find something about women faintly contagious. Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the President of the MCC, is winning over the crusties by promising them sanctuary: "I have told them that if they really want to get away from the women to do their thing, we will build a male-only bar." But what is their thing?*



NELSON MANDELA, that old celebrity-hugger, is gathering his chums for a big birthday blowout. Star guest: the children's friend, Michael Jackson, who will fly over with his sister Janet. They will serenade the South African President when he turns 80 in July, with Stevie Wonder joining in. A birthday book has been started by Naomi Campbell, who has paid £10,000 (to charity) to enter her message, and Michael Caine, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sidney Poitier are exercising their Mont Blancs. The only grey on a pale blue horizon is the President's authorised biography by Anthony Sampson, the author of *Anatomy of Britain*. Far from writing a hagiography, he promises a "more objective" assessment than earlier efforts, featuring, imaginatively, a defence of Winnie. "I will explore the difference between icon and reality," he says. "It is too simplistic to paint Winnie as a demon. She is a tragic heroine with a fatal flaw. Their relationship is like *Antony and Cleopatra*." So will it be hatchet job, like Brian Walden's TV lecture which accused Mandela of being feckless, arrogant and autocratic? "No, no. His account was half-baked, inaccurate and simplistic." But otherwise splendid, I am sure.

هكذا من الأصل

PROMISES, PROMISES

When good government and election pledges collide

The currency of the political promise has been progressively inflated this century by politicians of every party. Where once an honest intention sufficed to secure a vote, now a series of vows and covenants is required. In Northern Ireland the Prime Minister has tried to secure a referendum victory with a handwritten pledge. And before the last general election the Labour Party entered into a solemn contract with the British people by making five "early" pledges which were emblazoned on cards, posters, even coffee cups. Now, however, those promises stare reproachfully from ministerial mugs. Waiting lists have gone up not down, and thousands of young children are still taught in classes of more than 30 pupils. In making its pledges so specific the Government fashioned iron rods for its own back out of inflexible statistics.

Relieving the pain endured by those waiting for an operation is an admirable objective, but privileging it above other considerations can distort a balanced approach to the NHS. As long as the health service remains free at the point of delivery there is little which can be done to limit demand. Electing to be judged, above all, on the reduction of waiting lists makes success for health ministers dependent on a variable which they can only influence, never control. And the money which must be used to reduce waiting lists might be better deployed elsewhere. Concentrating on the relief of one symptom does not constitute a cure.

With schools, the efforts to reduce class sizes are similarly admirable, but also distorting. There is no doubt that parents consider low pupil-teacher ratios one of the best guarantees of superior teaching. They look with envy at the small class sizes which prevail in the private sector and want the same for their children. They are comforted in their view by the research of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, who has argued that smaller class sizes for children in the early years of primary education make a real difference to levels of achievement. But smaller class sizes must often be bought by discounting parental choice. Every child of five, six or seven could be taught in a class of fewer than 30 if parents were prepared to give up any choice of school for their child. Parents, however, understandably flock to the best schools in their area and so a measure of overcrowding is inevitable. The money saved from the abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme can pay for some new teachers but it is not enough on its own to make proper provision for the reduction in class sizes envisaged.

The practical problems ministers face are a consequence of a theoretical insight familiar to any economist. The exclusive focus on one target in pursuit of a policy can lead to unhappy consequences elsewhere. Monetarists discovered that very early: just as they identified control of one measure of money in circulation as the best safeguard against inflation, the pursuit of that goal became the chase for a chimera. It is an insight rooted in common sense. While calorie-counting is good nutritional practice, sticking to that calculus alone is no guarantee of a balanced diet. If ministers were to ask the voters to judge their policies in health and education in the round, rather than by reference to these single pledges, then they would be encouraging the electorate towards a maturer judgment.

But they would also be treading the same treacherous path as the last Government. It may have been folly for John Major to say before the 1992 election that VAT would not rise. Voters, however, expected him to keep his word and took terrible vengeance when he reneged. Ministers may curse the promises they made, but they cannot forfeit the voters' good faith. Both taxpayer and consumer are left to pay the pledges' price.

IMPERIAL OVERTURE

The Emperor and Empress of Japan come as friends

Over the next week, as guests of the Queen, a dignified, retiring and exquisitely mannered couple will be visiting this country. They will not, if the pattern of protocol that governs their lives is maintained, come back again. Their every step has been meticulously choreographed for them; the few words they will utter on formal occasions have already been drafted on their behalf. Yet few state occasions have given rise to more official nervousness, or more public controversy, than the five days that Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan will spend here.

The controversy has not only been unavoidable; it has been no bad thing. Thousands of British people, civilians as well as prisoners of war, suffered atrociously at Japanese hands between 1941 and 1945. Precisely because of the symbolic character of this visit, it makes space for rituals of grief and mourning. Deep emotions and bitter memories have yet to be assuaged.

For this, successive Japanese governments bear some responsibility. Had it not taken Japan half a century to utter, as its Cabinet now has, "acute remorse and heartfelt apology" for that suffering, the bitterness would by now be less acute. Had Japanese compensation gone beyond the miserly payments agreed under the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty, the wounds might have healed better. If anxiety about the reception the Emperor will encounter has sharpened sensibilities, both in Japan and among Britons far too young to have any direct connection with the past, that augurs well for closer future understanding.

This, however, is all the greater reason why their majesties should, and not merely out of respect for the Queen, be treated with dignity and courtesy. The limits to what they can do or say to make amends should be understood. Before leaving Japan, in the audience that we report in *Weekend* and in an exceptional press conference, the Emperor said how important it was for him to "strive to have a full sense of the pain in the hearts" of British veterans. The Empress spoke of the "great physical pain and emotional trauma" suffered even now from wartime injuries. In the places that they visit, she added, they "intend to keep deeply in mind" those with painful memories, praying that such "bitter occurrences" would never recur.

Such words, had they been uttered by the Queen, would be understood in this country as coming as close to formal apology as a constitutional monarch could. They may not satisfy many survivors; but they are, in context, courageous. What is equally important is an evident sincerity of tone, which can be expected to inform whatever "imperial words" the Emperor is permitted on this subject at the banquet in his honour.

More should not be expected — above all from a monarchy even more constrained by protocol and constitution than the House of Windsor, in a country whose wartime record remains a deeply political issue. Nor should too much be made of the awarding to the Emperor of the Order of the Garter. The Garter withdrawn from his father, Emperor Hirohito, was restored during his visit in 1971: that was surely more controversial than honouring in the same way the son who was not yet adult in 1945.

The past will cloud, but should not obscure, a present which sees 55,000 Japanese living in this country, some 300,000 British people directly or indirectly employed through Japan's considerable investments here, and growing mutual interest in two rich cultures. History cannot be unlived; but it can surely be faced today, even by those who were condemned to endure unforgettable horrors, with more composure than would be suggested by turned backs and whistles in The Mall.

XANADU REVISITED

Life seldom meets legend as neatly as it does for Kublai Khan



Not everyone gets the opportunity to go to Xanadu. James Pringle, our man in Beijing, is one of the few foreigners in this century permitted to make the journey to the last forbidden city. So it is a relief that his report today under the world's most exotic dateline lives up to the romance of Xanadu.

Too many of these secret destinations of the mind turn out to be disappointments on the ground. None of the proposed sites for Camelot, not even Cadbury Castle, comes within seven-league-boots of the fantasies of Malory or the special effects of Hollywood. But the archaeology of Xanadu uncannily echoes the footfalls of Marco Polo and the laudanum-induced poem by Coleridge. Just as Polo describes it, the inner palace seems to have been a giant yurt, or Mongol tent: Coleridge's "stately pleasure-dome". The shards of Mongol porcelain and vessels for drinking the fermented mares' milk of paradise support Coleridge's dream palace and Polo's accounts of drunken orgies at the Khan's court. The archaeologists have even found the remains of a dulcimer, though it is unlikely to be Abyssinian. Even the surveyor's dimensions fit the poetic measurement of twice five miles of fertile ground.

There are discrepancies between romance [illegible] Polo was careless not to take Alph his sacred river from the subterranean passage of the Alpheus in Arcadia, fabled to rise again at the fountain of Arethusa by Sicily. And the textual archaeologists find the topography of Xanadu, "that deep romantic chasm which slanted down the green hill athwart a cedarn cover", more Somerset than Inner Mongolia.

But there really is a river, now called Clear Spring, by the southern gate of Xanadu, now known as Shangdu to the Chinese. The men still gather there in the evening to smoke and gossip. And many more European visitors made the perilous passage to Xanadu in the centuries before Coleridge wrote his *Vision in a Dream* than have made it in the century since it has been closed by war and the China's People's Liberation Army. They were missionaries, mercenary administrators, traders and adventurers. Coleridge was reading the work of one of them, *Purchas his Pilgrimage* (1613), just before he fell asleep: "Here the Khan Kubla commanded a palace to be built, and a stately garden thereunto. And thus ten miles of fertile ground were enclosed with a wall."

Legend seldom meets life as romantically as it does at Xanadu. The old lady who asked our man where the visitors came from, and then said that she had not realised that there [illegible] another country outside China, was

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Value for money from the police

From Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Your report today, "Tory pledge on extra police patrols 'has been broken' ", accurately records the falling number of police constables in England and Wales. Indeed, figures for the total number of police officers of all ranks show a greater decline between the general elections of 1992 and 1997, despite Conservative commitments, the number of officers fell by over 500.

Significantly, this trend is continuing under the Labour Government. Between April and October last year the number of officers fell by another 230. If we take the warnings of the Police Federation and the Association of Police Authorities seriously, we can expect further decreases when new figures are published in early June.

While the Home Secretary is keen to place new responsibilities on the police, from chasing truants to enforcing child curfews, he is uncharacteristically quiet on the issue of declining police numbers.

Although the Home Office no longer sets the exact number of officers in each police force, it is clear that the revitalisation of community policing, which is an important objective, requires realistic funding.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN BEITH
(Liberal Democrat Home Affairs Spokesman),
House of Commons,
May 19.

From Mr R. G. Bartlett

Sir, At a time when many of us do not believe that we get value for money from the various police forces, and we are constantly told that costs are rising, I find it hard to conceive that it takes three police officers to visit Sydney, Australia, to check on the background of the Australian nanny, Louise Sullivan (report, May 19), the team being led by a detective chief superintendent.

Have the Metropolitan Police not heard of the telephone, fax, conference TV, the telegraph, or even the good old postal service?

Yours faithfully,
R. G. BARTLETT,
Headlands, The Avenue,
West Quantoxhead,
Taunton, Somerset TA4 4DJ.
May 20.

From Mr Christopher Taylor

Sir, If the police have been too busy to pursue the criminals owing (in 1996) £139 million in unpaid fines (report, later editions, May 18), how will they find time to round up school truants?

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR,
6 Park Crescent,
Cuddington,
Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2TY.
May 19.

Crossbench peers

From Viscount Bledisloe, QC

Sir, Lord Weatherill (letter, May 20) is, of course, entirely correct in saying that the crossbenchers in the Lords are not a party, and that there cannot be a corporate "crossbench view" on any matter. Thus the opinions and arguments expressed in the paper on House of Lords reform, issued before the meeting to which Lord Weatherill refers, are not to be attributed to anyone other than those who expressed their approval of it.

But this does not alter the fact that, as correctly reported by James Landale on May 15, the position set out in the paper received the approval of a very large number of those crossbench peers who responded to it either by attending the meeting or by writing in. Over 170 crossbenchers did so respond to the paper, and almost all of them approved its substance. The absence of a formal head-count does not alter the fact that the paper does set out a position shared by these people.

I remain, Sir, your humble and obedient servant,
BLEDISLOE,
House of Lords.
May 20.

Whitsun tradition

From Mr Ted Gardener

Sir, The powers that be have told us we may not eat beef on the bone, and now we cannot roll cheeses (report and photograph, May 21). It's too dangerous.

I protest. We must defy the killjoys of the "nanny state" and preserve our most eccentric traditions; after monetary union they will be all that is left to remind us who we are.

The cheese-rolling at Cooper's Hill in Gloucestershire should go ahead at Whitsun, and if the authorities don't like it that's just hard cheese!

Yours faithfully,
E. J. GARDENER,
23 Brouncker Road, W3 8AE.
ted@gardener.clara.co.uk
May 21.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Resignations hit the Arts Council

From Mr Luke Rittner

Sir, As a former Secretary General of the Arts Council (1983-90), I was dismayed to see that the entire drama panel had resigned (report and letter, May 21).

The Arts Council is a unique institution. Not perfect, and it has made mistakes, but in its 50-year history it has undoubtedly played a seminal role in nurturing, advising and encouraging through its funding policies the artistic life of our country.

In my view, the success of the Council has been to do with the direct link that it has maintained through thick and thin with people who know the arts, many of them serving the Council's panels and committees. When that link is severed, then I believe the Council's future may be in jeopardy.

No one, least of all the arts world, wants to see unnecessary bureaucracy in the organisation that distributes government funds to the arts. It is entirely right to ensure, within reason, that the mechanism for distribution of funds is kept as simple and as economic as possible.

However, the Arts Council is a public body, paid for by and distributing taxpayers' money. That role requires public accountability and transparency to a degree that does not necessarily apply to the commercial world. Above all, it requires the basic trust and support of the constituency it exists to serve. To lose that support in return for a sleek and efficient machine may look good in the short run, but may ultimately render the Council ineffective and isolated.

While wishing the new chairman and secretary general every success, I do urge them to listen to those who know — that body of creative people who may be uneasy bedfellows, but whose commitment, creativity and inspiration are what in the end arts funding is all about.

Yours faithfully,
LUKE RITTNER,
29 Kelso Place, W8 5QG.
May 21.

From Dr Anthony Field

Sir, The resignation of the Arts Council's entire Drama Advisory Panel appears to be yet another step towards the complete dissolution of the Arts Council. Professional politicians of all parties have been working towards this with their carefully chosen appointments of chairmen and secretaries general since 1987. It was obviously desirable for politicians not to be seen to axe the arts outright but to let the Council dig its own grave.

The enormous success of the British arts world was achieved with the work of the Arts Council as catalyst over the period from 1947 to 1987. This saw the development of our national drama, opera and dance companies, over 40 regional drama companies, our major regional and London orchestras and a number of arts centres. The result was the wealth of writers, composers, artists and technicians, all trained in subsidised companies and creating the success of British cinema, television and radio.

The present scene of desolated orchestras (for example, the Hallé), closed theatres (Leatherhead and Farnham), near-bankrupt companies (Chichester and Colchester) and the teetering artistic and administrative structures at the Royal Opera and English National Opera companies is all a waste of our investment in the past 50 years.

All this because politicians suspect the motives of artists since the arts deal with inner truths, they outlive governments and creeds and societies, even the very civilisations that produced them. They cannot be destroyed altogether, because they represent the substance of faith; they are what we shall find even when politicians have swept the Arts Council away.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY FIELD
(Finance Director, Arts Council, 1957-84),
152 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican, EC2Y 8DD.
May 20.

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, The entire Drama Advisory Panel has resigned from the Arts Council. I am surprised it took them so long to realise they were effectively "token luvvies". Several years ago I was appointed to the drama panel and as an accountant was anything but a "token luvvy". But like the present panel's grievances, nobody took any notice of me either.

It is essential that the officers of the Arts Council have arts practitioners to advise them. After all it is we who have experienced the trials and tribulations of working in the arts and our input is at grass roots. Too often in the arts, and indeed anywhere else, those upstairs pontificate whilst those downstairs pick up the pieces.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN
(Member, Drama Advisory Panel, 1989),
Breckman & Company,
49 South Molton Street, W1Y 2LH.
May 21.

Dangers of cannabis

From Dr Andrew Wilski

Sir, In view of the public naivety about cannabis and the pro-cannabis propaganda, any reminders about the dangers associated with the drug ought to be welcome ("Are there real uses for cannabis?", Body and Mind, May 14).

To anyone working in the field of psychiatry it should be obvious that cannabis is a stealthily noxious substance. I am certain that the drug has never done any real good to anyone, but those who are mentally sturdy may tolerate its use without suffering great harm, though inducing regularly a state of torpor ("getting stoned") and misjudging it as "relaxation" will carry some long-term dangers.

On the other hand, individuals with sensitive brains or malformed psychological constitutions, or both, will be always seriously affected by cannabis and will suffer either an acute or chronic psychosis, or disordered mood. With time, a state of low motivation with reluctance to make constructive efforts in life develops and leads further to a general sloth, aimlessness and consequent depression.

There is a strange lack of will among many mental health workers to take the evil of illegal drugs very seriously and American studies show that psychiatrists are often unaware of their patients' use of the drugs or that they ignore the fact that the patients' derangements are primarily caused by the drugs.

It is also apparent that the widely reported criminal behaviour of people described as "psychiatric patients" or "failures of community psychiatry" is often directly related to the effects of illegal drugs. Such people's behaviour cannot be effectively controlled by any psychiatric system but requires an energetic intervention of law-enforcing agencies.

Calls for legalisation of cannabis often stem from ill-will or ignorance. I am convinced that wide use of the drug would in the long run cause terrible psychological and social devastation, especially among the increasing army of confused young people who are growing up without any proper parental affection, moral guidance, edifying culture or philosophical basis in life.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WILSKI
(Consultant psychiatrist and Medical Director),
Pembury Hospital, Pembury,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4QJ.
May 19.

Abbey dismissal

From the Reverend Patrick Crean

Sir, The present sad goings-on at Westminster Abbey (letters, April 24 to May 15) do leave one with a sense that nothing changes. Shortly after his appointment as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Swift writes to Alexander Pope on June 28, 1715, complaining that "my amusements are defending my small dominions against the Archbishop, and endeavouring to reduce my rebellious choir".

It's a wonder these chaps ever take the job in the first place!

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK CREAN,
St Giles Vicarage,
Aintree, Liverpool L10 8LE.
patrickcrean@compuserve.com
May 21.

Aitken denial

From Mr Jonathan Aitken

Sir, Regarding your headline, "Aitken will say he lied for Britain" (May 21), I would like to make it clear that I did not say this. Moreover I have never suggested, nor will I ever suggest, any such defence to the allegation that I told a lie on oath in my libel action against *The Guardian*.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN AITKEN,
45 Great Peter Street, SW1P 3LT.
May 18.

Kashmir 'time bomb'

From Sir Nicholas Barrington

Sir, It will, of course, be almost impossible to dissuade the Pakistan Government from testing their own nuclear device, after recent Indian tests, and so greatly increasing tension in the area (letters, May 14, 16, 19).

The Pakistanis might, however, be dissuaded if, in addition to some real sanctions hurting India, the permanent members of the Security Council, or at least the US and the EU, with Japan, announced their intention of working with both Governments to try and resolve the differences between the two countries, including the Kashmir problem. This must involve concessions on both sides. Arguably it should have been done before now.

People have in the past raised eyebrows when I have talked of Kashmir as an unexploded time bomb, but the situation between these two countries, both friends of Britain, is now too serious to be left to them alone. Having taken the initiative in developing long-range missile systems, and now in exploding more nuclear devices, India cannot maintain the moral high ground, nor claim that these issues are of no concern to outsiders.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BARRINGTON
(Ambassador and High Commissioner to Pakistan, 1987-94),
The Athenaeum,
107 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5ER.
May 18.

Costly upkeep of precious buildings

From Mr George Ferguson

Sir, English Heritage's announcement that they have an average of £200 for emergency repairs and a total of about £3,000 per building at risk emphasises the strength of the case of Save Britain's Heritage and others (letter, May 19). This year's total of £5 million grant spread among 1,500 buildings is paltry when one considers that many of those buildings require six-figure, if not seven-figure sums in order to rescue or reuse them.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has been invaluable, but any government pretence that it has not affected English Heritage's own grants has to be a sham — there is a real danger that the short-term bonus of the lottery will prove to have been the cause of the longer-term demise of worthwhile national support.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FERGUSON
(Director),
Ferguson Mann Architects,
Royal Colonnade,
18 Great George Street,
Bristol BS1 5RH.
May 20.

From the Reverend Alastair Thom

Sir, Does the heritage lobby really know what it wants?

Advertising their new strategy in your columns they declare: "The repair and re-use of historic buildings is an integral part of urban and rural regeneration". Quite so.

Would English Heritage then like to consider putting their strategy into practice in Cambridge, where their costly campaign against the sensible proposals for the re-use of the Round Church (report, May 15) threatens the prospect of this historic building continuing to be in good repair and open to the public?

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR G. THOM,
Church House,
Howes Close,
Mountfield Road, N3 3NX.
May 19.

From Wing Commander Derek Dudley Martin

Sir, Any property owner will agree that "to solve the problem of decay, we must master the chore of routine maintenance" (Marcus Binney's article, May 19).

Perhaps the quickest way to encourage routine maintenance would be to reintroduce Schedule A tax. Before it was abolished, this tax on the ownership of property could be avoided by producing evidence of spending on maintenance equivalent at least to the amount of tax.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK MARTIN,
Cobble Wood Cottage,
Medmenham, nr Marlow,
Buckinghamshire SL7 2HE.
May 19.

From Mr A. J. Wedgwood

Sir, I understand that if I alter my (lowly) Grade II listed house — with planning permission of course — the builder will not charge VAT on the work. But when I spend money on its maintenance — as I regularly do — he has to add 17½ per cent.

Is this really the way to save old buildings?

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY WEDGWOOD,
10 Milner Place, N1 1TN.
May 19.

In the wet

From Mr Tim Rock

Sir, Commander Michael Ranken (letter, May 15) may be comforted to learn that the 300ft single-jet fountain which Sir William Whitfield and I have proposed for the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens as a memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales, will not require him to don his oilskins or his swimsuit. It would not even have required the immortal Dorothy Parker to slip out of her wetsuit into a dry Martini.

The fountain, if installed, is planned to have highly sensitive sensors to reduce the height of the water jet in response to wind strengths. I understand that the possibility is seriously being investigated by the Royal Parks Agency. There is no doubt that the water supply would allow it.

Yours faithfully,
TIM ROCK,
c/o The London Library,
St James's Square, SW1Y 4LG.
May 18.

Diversionary tactic

From Colonel Giles Bateman (retd)

Sir, The field trials on mosquito repellents conducted by Baroness Gardner of Parkes (letter, May 21) are old hat.

Soldiers of my generation serving overseas knew that the army-issue insect repellent was best applied liberally and exclusively to the junior man in the tent. The mosquitoes and their friends at once congregated around him; the rest of us then slept unmolested.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BATEMAN,
Hocker Edge Oast,
Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2LL.
May 21.

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE

May 22: The Duke of Kent, President, the Football Association, this evening attended a World Cup 2006 Campaign Dinner at Guildhall, London EC2.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

May 22: Princess Alexandra this morning attended a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Le Court Cheshire Home and the Leonard Cheshire Foundation in Chichester Cathedral and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major General Sir Philip Ward).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Pallant House Gallery, 9 North Pallant, Chichester.

Today's royal engagement

The Duke of Kent, president, will attend speech day at Wellington College, Berkshire, at 10.30.

Dinners

Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

Rear-Admiral James Carine, Master of the Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, assisted by the Wardens, presided, at the annual dinner held last night at the Mansion House. Alderman Sir Roger Cork, Sir Michael Perry, Rear-Admiral R.B. Lees, Brigadier R. Leighton, Air Commodore C.G. Winsland, Mr A. Theakston and Masters of Livery Companies were the principal guests.

Bart's Alumni Association

The Secretary of State for Health spoke at a dinner of the Association held in the Butchers' Hall to mark the 875th anniversary of St Bartholomew's Hospital on May 13, the Hospitals View Day. The President, Professor Christopher Hudson, was in the Chair. Other speakers were Mr William Shand and Mr Simon Gray.

Latest wills

Charles Vincent **Borelli**, of Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,566,118 net.

He left £200,000 to Holy Cross Hospital and £25,000 to the Southwark Brethren Charity; the rest of his personal estate he left to the Secular Clergy Common Fund of St Mary's Cemetery, Harrow Road, London, NW10.

Luncheon

Atlantic Council

Dr John Reid, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom held yesterday at Stoke Rochford on the opening of the annual conference of the Atlantic Treaty Association spring seminar. Mr Antonio Rodrigues, chairman of the association of Portugal, presided. Dr Theodossis Georgiou, president of the association, also spoke.

University news

Cambridge

Professor Donald Lynden-Bell, FRS, Professor of Astrophysics, has been awarded the Catherine Wolf Bruce Medal by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to research on the subject from mathematical physics to observational astronomy.

Oxford

Clinical medical scholarships 1997-98

The Hobson/Mann Memorial Scholarships of £225 per annum, tenable for the second and final year of the clinical course, have been awarded to the following:

Debbie Lisa Benson, Lady Margaret Hall, Brasenose, the Royal London and Magdalen; Paul Andrew Cohen, Christ Church; Shanika Anne-Marie Crusz, Girton, Cambridge, and Merton; Gideon Heinert, St Hugh's.

Esther Rhiannon James, St John's; Andrew Frederick Allen Marsden, Clare, Cambridge, and Trinity.

GREGOR McMURTRIE



Eloise Roberts and Jim Hurren of Northampton, who have recently announced their engagement

St Edward's School, Oxford

Today is Gaudy Day. The preacher is the Rev P.J.M. Southwell, Chaplain of The Queen's College, Oxford. Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, will present the prizes and address the School.

The following Scholarships and other awards are announced:

For entry to the Shells in September 1998:

Major Scholarships

Emily Ambler, St Andrew's, Pangbourne; Catherine David, Oxford High School and St Edward's; Mark Quartley, Dragon School, Oxford; Edward Mather, Dragon School; Fiona Joll, Dragon School; Olivia Darlington, Dragon School. Continuation Scholarship and Music Exhibition: Daniel Chambers, St Piran's, Maidenhead. Honorary Art Scholarship: Polly Glass, Our Lady's Convent, Abingdon, and St Edward's. **Exhibitions**

Rosalind Benson, King Edward VI, Edgbaston, and St Edward's; David Cheetham, St Michael's School, Tawstock; Anna Leroy, Beachborough, Brackley; Connie Mellen, Dragon School; Henry Richards, Dragon School, Douglas Bader Award and an Exhibition: Anthea Townsend, Dragon School. Douglas Bader Award: Ella Verney, Beachborough. Art Exhibition: Edward Watson, Bramdean, East Grinstead. Kendall Award: Kathryn Tuckett, Swanbourne House School, Swanbourne. HM Forces Exhibition and Continuation Exhibition: William Myers, West Hill Park, Titchfield. Continuation Exhibitions: Alexander Brambie, West Hill Park; Christopher Brooke-Hollidge, St Hugh's, Faringdon; Michael Rumbold, Farleigh School, Red Rice.

Music Scholarship

Anna Leroy, Beachborough.

Music Exhibitions

Olivia Darlington, Dragon School; Patrick Hunter, Dragon School; Alexander Talbot, Crosfields, Reading.

Rotherfield Awards

James Bell, Bishopsgate School; Polly Dick, St Hugh's; Jonathan Gabriel, Moulsford; Victoria Head, St Hugh's; James Roblin, Dragon School; Alistair Simmle, Dragon School; Edmund Smith, Josca's Preparatory School, Prilford; Matthew Thomas-Keeping, Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford; Gareth Williams, Ashfold School, Dorton.

Continuation Awards (for entry to the Shells in September 2000)

Scholarships: Megan Baddeley, Dragon School; Nathan Lawrence, New College School, Oxford; Matthew Wincott, New College School. Exhibitions: Andrew Beggs, Dragon School; Louisa Searle, Beaudesert Park, Minchinhampton; Robert Bartlett, Caldicott, Farnham Royal; George Leroy, Christ Church Cathedral School.

For entry to the Lower Sixth in September 1998:

Scholarships

The Cooper Scholarship: Chantelle Staynings, St David's School for Girls, Ashford; Carl Robinson, Bartholomew School, Eynsham; Isabel von Simson, Westonbirt School, Tetbury; Charlotte Berkin, Bedford High School (Music); Rosanna Corp, Lycée International, St-Germain-en-Laye (Music).

Exhibitions

Catherine Stevenson, The Warriner School, Bloxham; Iona Williams, Downe House, Thatcham; Jennifer Woodrow, Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe; Georgia Sutcliffe, St Clotilde's, Lechlade (Art).

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: Elias Ashmole, antiquary, Lichfield, 1617; Carolus Linneaus, botanist, South Rashult, Sweden, 1707; Franz Mesmer, physician, pioneer of hypnotism, Weil, Germany, 1734; Sir Charles Barry, architect, London, 1795; Douglas Fairbanks, Sr, Denver, Colorado, 1883.

DEATHS: Girolamo Savonarola, preacher, burnt at the stake, Florence, 1498; William Kidd, (Captain Kidd), pirate, hanged, Wapping, London, 1701; John Wood, architect and town planner, Bath, 1754; Henrik Ibsen, dramatist, Norway, 1906; John D. Rockefeller, oil magnate and philanthropist, Ormond Beach, Florida, 1937.

King Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boleyn, 1533.

The North West Mounted Police, later the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, were formed, Canada, 1873.

The French crown jewels went on sale, raising 6 million francs, 1887.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit, inventor of the mercury thermometer, Gdansk, 1686; Jean Paul Marat, revolutionary, Neuchatel, Switzerland, 1743; Queen Victoria, reigned 1837-1901, Kensington Palace, 1819; Robert Cunningham Graham, author and politician, Gartmore, Stirlingshire, 1852; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, dramatist, London, 1855; Jan Christiaan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa 1919-24 and 1939-48, Riebeck West, Cape Colony, 1870.

DEATHS: David I, King of Scotland 1124-53, Carlisle, 1153; Copernicus, astronomer, Frembork, Poland, 1543; Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, statesman, Marlborough, Wiltshire, 1612; William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist, New York, 1879; Samuel Palmer, landscape painter, Reigate, 1881; Archibald Wavell, 1st Earl Wavell, field marshal, Viceroy of India 1943-47, London, 1950; John Foster Dulles, US Secretary of State 1953-59, Washington, 1959; Duke Ellington, pianist and bandleader, New York, 1974.

Dartmoor prison was opened to house French prisoners-of-war, 1809.

Westminster Bridge opened over the Thames, 1862.

Brooklyn Bridge opened over the East River, New York, 1883.

HMS Hood was sunk by the Bismarck off Greenland, 1941.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.W. Bagnall and Miss C.E. Walton

The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Bagnall, of Leatherhead, Surrey, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Tim Walton, of Pishill, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.M.B. Evans and Miss L.A.P. Coyle

The engagement is announced between James Michael Burgess, son of Commander and Mrs Mike Evans, of Shalford, Surrey, and Lesley Anne Parkinson, daughter of Mr Thomas Coyle and the late Mrs Coyle, of Leith, Edinburgh.

Mr R.J. Green and Miss F.R. Burton

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs John Green, of Saffron Walden, Essex, and Freya, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Burton, of Catherington, Hampshire.

Dr D.J. Morgan and Dr H.B. Holt

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Dr and Mrs D.H. Morgan, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, and Helen, daughter of Dr and Mrs D.I. Holt, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr M.V.A. Robins and Miss A. Flacco

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Robins, of London, and Annamaria, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Giovanni Flacco, of Adelaide, Australia.

Mr M.R. Smith and Miss S. Thornthwaite

The engagement is announced between Matthew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Smith, of Great Addington, Northamptonshire, and Sally, youngest daughter of Mr Clifford Thornthwaite and the late Mrs Thornthwaite, of Alderholt, Hampshire.

Mr C. Waddington and Miss M.H. Greenwood

The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr and Mrs John George Waddington, of Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, and Margaret Hope, daughter of the late Mr John M.F. Greenwood and of Mrs Cecily Greenwood, of Rotherfield, East Sussex.

Marriages

The Hon Harry Stanley and Miss S. Kassim-Lakha

The marriage took place at Syon House, London, yesterday of the Hon Harry Stanley, youngest son of Lord and Lady Stanley of Alderley, to Miss Shirin Kassim-Lakha, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Zulifkar Kassim-Lakha, of Brussels. Mr Robin Bencard was best man. A reception was held at Syon House.

Sir John Barlow and Mrs P. Windsor

The marriage took place on Thursday, May 21, in Chester, of Sir John Barlow and Mrs Pauline Windsor, both of Cheshire.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Cyril Jonathan Meyrick, Team Rector of Tisbury Team and Rural Dean of Chalk Deanery (Salisbury diocese), to be Residentiary Canon of Rochester Cathedral in succession to the Rev Richard John Rutland Lea on his appointment as Vicar of Iffley.

The Rev Victor Evans, Parish Coordinator, and NSM Curate, Southmead (Bristol): to be Team Rector, Uttoxeter (Lichfield).

The Rev Robert Fitzharris, Vicar, Bentley St Peter (Sheffield): to be Honorary Canon of Cathedral (same diocese).

The Rev George Frost, Vicar, Tong, Priest-in-Charge, Donington, and Archdeacon of Salop (Lichfield): to be Archdeacon of Lichfield, Canon Treasurer of Lichfield Cathedral and Prebendary of Offley (same diocese).

The Rev Tirsh Grigor, Assistant Curate, Curry Rivel w Fivehead and Swell (Bath & Wells): to be Assistant Curate, Nailsea Christ Church w Tickenham (same diocese).

The Rev Jeremy Harris, Team Vicar, Ebbw Vale (Church in Wales): to be Team Vicar, Bracknell (Oxford).

The Rev David Heywood, Team Vicar, Sanderstead All Saints (Southwark): to be Vicar, Edensor St Paul (Lichfield).

The Rev Paul Inman, Priest-in-Charge, Colkirk w Oxwick w Pattesley, Whissonsett, Horningtoft, Brisley, and Great Ryburgh and Gateley (Norwich): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Shereford (same diocese).

Canon Allan Pye, Vicar, Hayton w Cumwhitton, and Rural Dean of Brampton (Carlisle): to be Priest-in-Charge, and Team Vicar designate, Hawkshead and Low Wray w Sawrey, and Colton, Satterthwaite and Rusland (same diocese).

The Rev Brian Llewellyn, Priest-in-Charge, Smallburgh w Dilham w Honing and Crostwight (Norwich): to be Rector, same benefice.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Sir Kenneth Allen, engineer, 91; Sir David Barran, former chairman, Midland Bank, 86; Lord Burlison, 62; Mrs J.J. d'A. Campbell, Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, 63; Sir Hugh Casson, CH, architect, 88; Miss Joan Collins, actress, 65; Mr Nigel Davenport, actor, 70; the Very Rev J.H. Drury, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, 62; Dr Walter Eltis, economist, 65; Mr G.M. Gill, former chief cashier, Bank of England, 64; Mr Marius Goring, actor, 86; Lord Grenfell, 63; Viscount Hawarden, 37; Mr Graeme Hick, cricketer, 32; Mr Anatoly Karpov, chess player, 47; Sir Peter Kenilorea, former Prime Minister, Solomon Islands, 55; Sir James Lester, former MP, 66; Sir John Lyons, FBA, Master, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 66; Mr Humphrey Lyttelton, jazz musician, 77; Mr Michael McCrum, former Master, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 74; Lady Olga Maitland, former MP, 54; the Earl of Mount Charles, 47.

Mr John Newcombe, tennis player, 54; Mr Peter Preston, Editorial Director, Guardian Media Group, 60; Mr Robert Sangster, former chairman, Vernons Organisation and racehorse owner, 62; Mr John Stevens, MEP, 43; His Honour Sir Sanderson Temple, QC, 77; Sir John Titman, former Secretary, Lord Chamberlain's Office, 72.

TOMORROW: Sir James Anderton, former Chief Constable, Greater Manchester, 66; Mr Stanley Baxter, comedian, 72; the Duke of Bedford, 81; Sir Timothy Bevan, former chairman, Barclays Bank, 71; Mr Keith J. Budge, Headmaster, Loretto School, Musselburgh, 41; Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, 81; Mr Eric Cantona, footballer, 32; Sir Leycester Coltman, diplomat, 60; Sir Roden Cutler, VC, former diplomat, 82; Mr Bob Dylan, singer, 57; Miss Kathleen Hale, author and illustrator, 100; Mr B.L. Hallward, former Vice-Chancellor, Nottingham University, 97; Mr Robert Hastie, Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, 65; Sir Terry Heiser, former civil servant, 66; Sir Derek Hodgson, former High Court judge, 81; Baroness Hollis of Heigham, 57; Mr Clifford Irving, former chairman, executive council, Isle of Man Government, 84; Mrs Liz McColgan, athlete, 34; Colonel John Mayo, former director-general, Help the Aged, 67; Mr Adrian Moorhouse, swimmer, 34; Mr Tony Mullett, former director-general, National Criminal Intelligence Service, 65; Mr Steven Norris, former MP, 53; Mr Luke Rittner, former secretary-general, Arts Council of Great Britain, 51; the Hon Christopher Sharples, chairman, Datastream/ICV, 51; Lord Justice Staughton, 65; Mr William Trevor, writer, 70; Mr Arnold Wesker, playwright, 66; the Earl of Wootton, 40.

POLICE INQUIRY SET UP AFTER RIPPER GETS LIFE

PETER SUTCLIFFE, the Yorkshire Ripper, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to life imprisonment after the jury had returned majority verdicts of ten to two on 13 counts of murder, described by Mr Justice Boreham as brutal and cowardly.

The jury had been out for five hours, 55 minutes, returning briefly after lunch to say that they could not be unanimous.

When news of the verdicts reached crowds in Old Bailey, outside the court, there were three cheers for the jury.

In West Yorkshire, Mr Ronald Gregory, the Chief Constable, announced that an investigation would be held into his force's failure to catch Mr Sutcliffe sooner. He dismissed criticism of the force's handling of the investigation, saying: "My conscience is completely clear. We did everything we could."

The judge told Mr Sutcliffe, who appeared as impassive as he had been throughout the three-week trial: "I shall recommend to the Home Secretary that the minimum period that should elapse before he orders your release on licence shall be 30 years. That is a longer period, an unusually long period, in my judgement, but you I believe are an unusually dangerous man. I express that hope that when I have said life imprisonment, it will mean precisely that."

By their verdicts the jury of six men and six women had rejected Mr Sutcliffe's pleas that his mental state of paranoid schizophrenia had driven him to kill 13 women and attempt to kill another seven in the North of England between 1975 and 1980. He had denied murder but admitted manslaughter while of diminished responsibility.

Life sentences were also imposed on Mr Sutcliffe for the seven charges of attempted murder — which he had admitted.

The judge concluded his summing-up at 10.21 am and the jury were sent to their room to seek a unanimous verdict as to whether Mr Sutcliffe had been driven by a "divine mission" to kill prostitutes, or was, as the prosecution charged, a callous and brutal murderer. When they returned to the court at 3.28pm, the judge said that he would accept a majority verdict.

Mr Sutcliffe waited below, where it was said he read a favourite author, James Herriot, while the jury deliberated for another 47 minutes before returning finally.

In the dock, surrounded by five prison officers, Mr Sutcliffe stood with his hands clasped in front of him, staring fixedly ahead at the judge.

Although relatives of some of his victims were in court, neither his wife Sonia, nor his father, brothers or sisters were present to hear the verdict on the lorry driver, aged 34, of Garden Lane, Heaton, Bradford.

An interview with Mrs Sonia Sutcliffe appeared yesterday evening in the *Sheffield Star*, which said no payment whatsoever had been made. Mrs Sutcliffe is quoted as saying: "Of course I'm standing by Pete", and that she is still very much in love with him.

Of the moment when Mr Sutcliffe told her he was the Ripper Mrs Sutcliffe said: "I couldn't believe it of him because he had behaved so normally at home. He used to tell me to be careful if I went out alone and once even escorted me because of the Ripper . . . Peter had been questioned before but everyone was being questioned in the Bradford area."

ON THIS DAY

May 23, 1981

Sutcliffe said divine voices told him to kill and was hoping to be charged only with manslaughter due to diminished responsibility. The judge, doubtful of the views of four psychiatrists that he was a paranoid schizophrenic, insisted that a jury decide. They found him guilty of 13 murders



Peter Sutcliffe: the jury rejected his claim that paranoid schizophrenia had driven him to kill

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Everything in the world, all that pandens to the appetites or entices the eyes, all the arrogance based on wealth, those springs not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2 :16.

BIRTHS

BROWN - On May 20th at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup to Tina (née Moon) and Jason, a son, Ryan Samuel, well done Tina.

DIAMOND - On Friday May 15th, 1998, to Nicola (née Walker) and Jonathan, a daughter, Emily Isabella Mayo, a sister for Lucy.

DRIVER-JONES - On 16th May 1998 at home at Aston Tirrold, Oxfordshire, to Norika and Jason, a son, Austin Brocks, a brother for Tamara Rose.

DUNDAS - On May 21st, to Melanie and James, a son, Milo James, a brother for Poppy and Emily.

ELPHICK - On May 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicky (née Reynolds) and Clifford, a daughter, Alexandra.

FINNEGAN - To Mark and Nikki a beautiful baby son, Ross Andrew, born 20th May 1998.

FORSYTH-FORREST - On 18th May to Julia and Mark, a son, William George, a brother for Alicia.

FRASER - On May 4th to Samantha and Mark, a son, Toby Alexander.

FURCHTGOTT-ROTH - To Diana and Harold, a son, Richard Abraham Furchtgott, brother for Leon, Francesca, Jeremy, Godfrey, and Theodore, and eleventh grandchild for Ellen and Gabriel Roth. On May 19th, in Washington DC.

GILLIS - On May 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Ilene Hershee and Simon Gillis, a son, Harry MacKinnon.

GREENHALGH - To Kate (née Powell) and Jeremy on 18th May at Kingston Hospital, a son, Jacob Edmund, a brother for Elizabeth, Imogen and Hermione.

BIRTHS

GUDGEON - On May 12th to Judy (née Gardner) and Mark, a son, William John, a brother for Tom.

LADA MOCZARSKI - On May 17th, to Jeremy and Sarah (née Westmore), a daughter, Stephanie Emma Yolanta, a sister for Natassja.

LEONARD - On Friday 15th May 1998, to Susan (Haggard) and Maurice, a son, Milo Henry Valentine, a brother for Arabella and Francesca.

MAKHMOUDOV - On May 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Nargiz and Rafig, a son, Ulvi, a brother for Aida and Ulviya.

NOAKES - On 14th May 1998 to Nicky (née Taylor) and Ben, a beautiful daughter, Freya.

ODGERS - On 15th May, to John and Romayne (Campbell), a son, James Archie, a brother for Hester.

PECK - On May 16th 1998 at St. Heliers Hospital, Surrey, to Sarah (née Birkenhead) and Colin, a son, Dominic Andrew. Deo Gratias.

ROWE - On Sunday, 17th May 1998, to Abigail (née Locock) and Nicholas, a son, Nicholas Edward Leicester, known as Edward, a brother for William and Flora.

SEIF - On May 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Patricia (née Keller) and Walter, a daughter, Mosma Linda.

STENNETT - On May 20th at Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton, to Caroline (née Waring) and Richard, a son, William Charles March, a brother for Tom and Edward.

TURNBULL - On 11th May 1998, to Juliette (née Wright) and Alex, a daughter, Lily Eleanor Arietti.

VERSAVEL - On Monday 18th May 1998 to Jane-Emma (née Roberts) and Pierre at Centre Hospitalier De Neuilly-Sur-Seine, Paris, a beautiful daughter, Amélie Elisabeth Cécile, a sister for Héloïse.

WARRINGTON - On May 2nd 1998, at home, to Jane (née Hoare) and Patrick, a son, Kit (Christopher) Sheridan Cromek, a brother for Flora, Farbie and Ferdinand.

WATKINS - On 1st May to Tim and Samantha, a beautiful daughter, Isabella Mary Janet.

ANNIVERSARIES

FIELD-PARNELL - Raoul and Eileen 23rd May 1953 at Willesden Registry Office. Congratulations on your Sapphire Anniversary. With love from all 25 of us.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

PEARSON-HALL - On May 22nd 1948 at the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, by the Bishop of Truro, John to Christina Joan. Now living in Worcestershire.

DEATHS

BAXTER - Michael, at Kent & Canterbury Hospital on May 22nd aged 59, having fought leukaemia for a long period of time. Dearly loved husband of Angela and father of Richard. Formerly stockbroker with Scrimgeour Kemp Gee then Citicorp and finally Nomura. Funeral Service 3.00 pm St Edmund's School Chapel, Canterbury Wednesday May 27th followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Relief c/o C. W. Lyons & Son Ltd., 70 Military Road, Canterbury Tel: 01227 463508.

BUCHANAN - Katharine, on 21st May in Sydney. Widow of Bill, mother of Jenny and Susie and grandmother of Jeffrey and John Starling and Chloe, Flora and Sophie Elwes. RIP.

CLAYTON-WRIGHT - On 17th May, suddenly at home in Henley-in-Arden. Julian aged 50 years, much loved son of Marie. All enquiries to A E Bennett and Sons. Tel 01789 267035.

ENDACOTT - Leonard David Lucas- Endacott on 22nd May after a short illness. Late of Chagford, Devon and Manor Park, Richmond, Surrey. Aged 78. Freeman of The City of London. Funeral on Tuesday 2nd June. Arrangements from Messrs Holmes & Daughters Telephone 0181 392 1012.

FORD - Boris, Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Bristol, died peacefully on 19th May, aged 80 years, in the presence of his family and friends he loved. Flowers, or donations to charity of own choice. Enquiries to: J H Kenyon Ltd, 9 Pond Street, London NW3. Tel: 0171 794 3535.

GADSEL - Celia Mary on May 17th peacefully attended by family at the BUPA hospital, Havant after a long courageous and determined fight against breast cancer aged 51 years. Beloved wife of Devendra, mother of Shashi and Anjana, daughter of the late Harry and the late Mary Mearrall, sister of Virginia Kearse. Will be missed by family and friends in the UK, India, Australia and France. Funeral at Portchester Crematorium 3pm Thursday May 28th. Family flowers only please. Donations to Cancer Research Campaign c/o Carrells Funeral Directors, 4 Town Hall Road, Havant, Hants, PO9 1AN Tel: 01705-486183.

GLEESON - Margaret Mary née Higgins (Peggy) peacefully on May 17th at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton. Loving wife of Pat, mother of Dermot, mother-in-law of Rosalind, grandmother of Kate and Patrick and sister of Moya. Funeral Service at St Christopher's Church, Cheam, Surrey on Tuesday May 26th at 12 noon followed by burial at Ashley Road Cemetery, Epsom. Family flowers only, but donations if wished, to St Raphael's Hospice Tobit Offices, London Road, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9DX.

GRAHAM-WISE - On May 21st 1998, at his home in Kelsale, Suffolk. Donald aged 80 years. Beloved husband of Daphne, a loving father and grandfather. Private cremation. Memorial Service to be arranged.

HANNA - Geoffrey Chalmers D.Sc. of Deep River, Ontario, Canada, on 13th May aged 77. Born in Manchester he spent most of his professional life in Canada gaining international respect as a physicist. He was a devoted husband of the late Barbara and a loved father, grandfather, brother and uncle. The funeral has taken place in Deep River.

HOPKINS - Mary Eileen (née Ellis) on 21st May peacefully at home after a long illness courageously borne. Wife of Leslie, mother of Anthony and John and grandmother of Sarah, Emma, Rhys and Annelies. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Giles's, Iley, Gloucestershire at 3 pm on 28th May. No flowers, please. Donations to St Giles's Church.

HOREY - At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on 21st May 1998, Piers, husband of Dorothy and father of Rebecca and Adam. Funeral at Mortonhall Crematorium Pentland Chapel on Tuesday 26th May at 12.15pm.

MACKENZIE - On 19th May at Frosfield after long illnesses patiently borne, Kathleen, widow of James Buist Mackenzie, beloved mother of Tony, Kate, Adrian, Fiona, Siobhan, Deirdre and Aileen. Requiem Mass at St Thomas More R.C. Church Marlborough on Wednesday 27th May at 12.00 noon. Flowers or donations if preferred for Brendon Care (Frosfield) c/o T. Free & Sons, The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE Tel 01672 512110.

McCLORY - Jane Elizabeth aged 54 - Peacefully at Trinity Hospice, London on May 19th. After a long illness borne with great courage, humour and dignity. Gemma and Amber have lost, too soon, a wonderful and devoted mother and Paul, an irreplacable friend. Funeral Service at St Lukes Church, Thurleigh Road, Battersea London SW12 on Friday May 29th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief, London W6 9HX and Marie Curie Nurses, London SW1X 7XZ.

MILLEN - Dr. Patrick James Thompson on Tuesday 19th May aged 57. Much loved husband of Hilary and proud father of James, Jo, Kate and Emma. Memorial Service to be held at Warblington Church, Warblington, Hants. at 1 pm on Thursday 28th May. Enquiries to Wraights on (01243) 372255. Donations to Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust Cardiac Research Fund.

POPE - Vice Admiral Sir Ernle KCB died suddenly on 21st May 1998 aged 76 years. Much loved husband and friend of Bunnie and admired by so many. Funeral Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle at 12.30 pm on Thursday 28th May followed by cremation at Hereford Crematorium at 1.45 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust.

UNWIN - Peter Boswood M.B.E. Peacefully at home on May 18th after a short illness. Beloved husband of Mary, loving father of Alison, David and Geraldine and fondest grandpa to his nine grandchildren. Service of Thanksgiving Wednesday May 27th at 3pm at Little Saling Church. No flowers by request. Donations, if desired, to R.N.L.I. c/o Richards Funeral Service, 78 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 1AH.

WALL - Margaret Helen, widow of Frederick Stanley, on 19th May 1998 peacefully at her home in Cornwall aged 87; much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother; funeral at 2pm on 26th May at Truro Crematorium; no flowers; donations to the Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

WILKINS - Minna Marguerite Clare (Peg) peacefully after a short illness on 21st May aged 82 in Manchester. Beloved wife of Hector (Brigadier RAVC retired), mother of Peter (died 1963), Philip (died 1980) and Edmund, grandmother to Imogen, Peter and Frederick. Funeral Manchester Crematorium Wednesday 27th May 1.30 pm. In lieu of flowers donations please to British Epilepsy Association sent c/o R. Pepperdine & Son Ltd. 5 Manchester Road, Choriton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 9JG.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

DUTT - Pauline, 24th May 1997. In loving memory, Trevor, Damien and Alexander.

WILSON - Baron Wilson of Rievaulx (Harold Wilson) died 23rd May 1995. Much loved and remembered by his family and friends. He was loved by the people.

WOOLMAN - Peter Geoffrey, on May 22nd 1998 aged 71, in the excellent care of The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh beloved husband of Rita, dearly loved father of John and dear father-in-law of Sarah, loving grandfather of Freddie, Jack, Harry and Catriona, loved brother of Bill and Desmond and brother-in-law of Frances, Walter and Marion and a loved uncle and great-uncle. Funeral Service at Warriston Crematorium Cloister Chapel on Monday May 25th at 2.15pm to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only please.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

WOLFSON - Lady Edith Wolfson (1907-1981) on her birthday. Remembered with love by all her family and friends.

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ANNETT, LEOPOLD EDWIN CLIFFORD of Flat 9, 34 Bryanston Square, London W1 died on 10 June 1997 particulars to LAW-RENCE GRAHAM Solicitors of 190 STRAND, LONDON WC2R 1JN (Ref: KWH/A2649/1) before 24 July 1998

CRAFT, PAUL WILHELM of Trajanstrasse 37/39 D-50678 Cologne, Germany died on 14 January 1997 particulars to DAWSON COBWELL & CO Solicitors of 14 RED LION SQUARE, LONDON WC1R 4QT before 24 July 1998

HEATH, SIR BARRIE of Wentworth, Church Road, Penn, Bucks died on 22 February 1998 particulars to WITHERS Solicitors of 12-18 QUEEN SQUARE, LONDON WC1A 3DS (Ref: JAG) before 24 July 1998

HOFMEYR, JAN MURRAY of 23 Silermouth Avenue, Constantia, Cape Town 8001, South Africa died on 26 June 1990 particulars to DAWSON & CO Solicitors of 2 NEW SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN, LONDON WC2A 3RZ (Ref: KAC/KEM/4012-55-7) before 24 July 1998

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OBITUARIES

GORDON BENINGFIELD

Gordon Beningfield, painter and countryside campaigner, died on May 4 of Non-Hodgkin's disease, aged 61. He was born on October 31, 1936.

AS WELL AS being one of the most popular countryside painters of his generation, Gordon Beningfield was tireless in his efforts to preserve English wildlife and traditional ways of life.

Gordon George Beningfield was born in Bermondsey. His father, George, was a lighterman in the Pool of London, and Gordon's first encounter with the countryside was as an evacuee during the Second World War. Soon afterwards the family moved to the Hertfordshire village of London Colney.

He failed the 11-plus, and left school at 15 with no qualifications but a natural flair for art, to begin an apprenticeship with Faithcraft, an ecclesiastical art company in St Albans. There he learnt about colours, textures, layout and lettering.

When he left, after 13 years, in 1968, he quickly established himself as a freelance artist, for it seemed that whatever he painted — Dorset landscapes, rare breeds, butterflies, shire horses — his work always captured a sense of time, season, weather and spirit of place. He worked in watercolour with a wonderfully free, confident style, illustrating a succession of books.

His first, *Beningfield's Butterflies*, was published in 1978. His second, *Beningfield's Countryside* (1980) sold nearly 150,000 copies. Others followed: among them *Hardy Country* (1983), *Beningfield's English Landscape* (1985) and *Beningfield's English Farm* (1988). His most recent book was *English Villages*, published in 1996, and he was working on a half-completed book on Britain's vanishing songbirds when he died.

During the 1970s he made the first of many appearances on television, in the BBC's *Look Stranger* series. He subsequently appeared on *The Country Game*, and was a regular contributor to *In the Country*. An abiding interest in Thomas Hardy led to an idyllic programme called *Dorset Dream*.

West Dorset came to epitomise the English countryside for him, and he became a regular visitor at bluebell time and again in autumn during the fallow deer rut. Whenever his Dorset friends asked him why he did not live there permanently, he said that he was afraid that if he did the magic might disappear.

Through his long association with Dorset he became a trustee of the Kingcombe Trust, which runs wildlife and countryside courses from the Kingcombe Centre, on a nature reserve managed by the Dorset Wildlife Trust. As a result of his campaigning, the Woodland Trust was also able to buy Duncliffe Wood, a well-known Dorset beauty spot, and in 1996, when the trust bought a 21-acre valley at West Milton, it was planted with mixed native trees and named Beningfield Wood in his honour.

In addition to his paintings, books and television appearances, he created stained-glass windows for the Household Cavalry, the Coldstream Guards and The Parachute Regiment, and also designed two sets of stamps for the Post Office, on butterflies in 1981 and other insects in 1985.

He was a formidable conservationist campaigner. When a hedgerow was ripped out or a meadow lost, he felt it personally, but the pain only drove him to fight even harder against the planners, bureaucrats and agri-businessmen he so despised, those who used the land simply as a food factory, ignoring the wildlife, landscape and ordinary country people.

In 1990 he succeeded the late Sir Peter Scott as president of Butterfly Conservation. In 1993 he became a founder, trustee and vice-chairman of the Countryside Restoration Trust. In 1995 he was made a freeman of the City of London. In 1996 he was awarded the Silver Cross of St George by *This England* magazine, for services to the preservation of English traditions and virtues; and in 1997 the British Naturalists' Association gave him the Peter Scott Memorial Award.

Success never turned his head. He remained a typical countryman, with a fondness for tweeds, deerhounds and bacon sandwiches, and an interest in shooting. He seldom felt the need to travel beyond Britain. "Why do you want to go abroad, just to pay good money to get dysentery?" he would say. He loved cricket, steam trains, Battle of Britain Spitfires and his treasured Jaguar motorcar in which, hating speedsters, he delighted to cruise along at a steady 50mph. His lecture audiences were surprised to see the famous conservationist turning up in a gas-guzzler, but when he was a struggling student in London it had always been one of his ambitions to own such a sleek car.

In 1958, he married Betty Boyce, his childhood sweetheart, and together they set up home in a 16th-century cottage near Hemel Hempstead. He is survived by her and their two daughters.



A painting of a Red Admiral butterfly on bindweed, executed in Beningfield's typical free and confident style

DONALD WISE

Donald Wise, foreign correspondent, died on May 20 aged 80. He was born on February 7, 1918.

In September 1972 Donald Wise was among a group of British foreign correspondents thrown into Kampala's notorious Central Prison. There they were ordered by some of Idi Amin's frothing soldiery to strip to their underwear and stand in a line with their arms outstretched. Keith Graves, then of BBC TV, found himself standing next to Wise. "How long do you think we're going to be in here?" whispered the appalled Graves.

"Well last time it was three-and-a-half years in Changi," drawled Wise. It was only then that the television reporter noticed that, whereas the rest of them had hastily abandoned their clothes to the filth on the floor, the ever elegant Wise had his trousers neatly folded over one arm and his jacket on the other.

Donald Wise was one of the best of a small bunch of adventurers who glittered in the pages of the old-style British popular press for almost 30 years after the war in which most of them had served. As a young officer, he was one of the few wounded prisoners taken when General Percival surrendered to the Japanese at Singapore. Wise felt the humiliation deeply. During the early days of captivity, a Japanese NCO tried to persuade British officers to ignore the privileges granted to them by the Geneva Convention and go to work.

"Jesus Christ worked," argued the Japanese. "He was a carpenter."

"Jesus Christ," Wise informed him, "was not a British officer."

Well over 6ft, Wise weighed just 94 lb when he was released from Changi Jail in August 1945. Almost immediately he volunteered for The Parachute Regiment, and he always insisted that they accepted him only because he was so underweight as to be uniquely qualified for testing experimental parachutes.

Captain Wise left the Army to become a rubber planter in Malaya just as the mainly Chinese Communist guerrillas there started their insurrection. Bored with rubber planting, he enlisted again and helped to lead a very irregular unit known as Ferret Force. Among its ranks were head-hunters from Borneo employed as trackers but given to spontaneous demonstrations of traditional arts unless closely watched.

Wise was wounded once as a soldier, but was to suffer three more wounds during the numerous small wars and revolutions he covered as a foreign correspondent. In the Congo he was hurt when the Irish contingent's ammunition dump received a direct hit from a mortar bomb. A few years later, while accompanying a patrol of Fusiliers in Aden, he was the first to spot a grenade coming their way, but his warning came too late to prevent himself and one of the Fusiliers from being hit by its shrapnel.

He survived two air crashes: once when a press plane caught fire during a royal tour in the then Southern Rhodesia, and rather more seriously when an RAF Shackleton, bombed up for a sortie against Arab rebels in the Radfan mountains, had to make an emergency landing with bombs still aboard and only half the undercarriage down.

Those lucky enough to be alongside him when they were facing being shot at for the first time often found his humour greatly calming. During the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 he spotted the young Jonathan Dimbleby and his camera crew beating an understandably hasty retreat from a Greek Cypriot position receiving Turkish mortar fire. "Stop," commanded Wise. "Don't run in front of the Greeks!"

Under artillery bombardment in Vietnam during the Communists' 1972 offensive the *Mirror's* reporter and other correspondents dived into a ditch. From there they watched as Gavin Young, Wise's friend from *The Observer*, crawled under a handy vehicle. "Do you think I should tell a former Welsh Guards officer," inquired Wise, "that he has just taken cover beneath an ammunition truck?"

Sometimes, the mordant wit ran onto the page in a way somewhat at odds with today's political rectitudes. Thus a famous account of a Congo massacre began: "I was sitting on the veranda of my hotel having my dinner when an African fell into my soup."

Donald Wise was born in Leatherhead, though the family fortune was made in Johannesburg, where his father owned a department store. His mother decided he was a sickly child who would not be able to withstand the African heat and he was never allowed to go there.



Donald Wise in Vietnam in the 1970s. Having served as a soldier he was well placed to cover wars

He was educated at Mill Hill, which he hated, and in 1936 went up to Worcester College, Oxford, to read German and French. His tutor told him: "You are not only here to learn languages. You are here to learn about life." So he dedicated himself to life classes — and was sent down. But not before his studies had taken him to Germany, where he attended some Nazi rallies and was impressed by their pageantry. They also convinced him that war was coming, and on his return he enlisted as a Territorial in a Cockney motorcycle battalion.

Meanwhile, inspired partly by the American-born foreign correspondent Negley Farson, he had become a "space reporter", first on the *Daily Mirror* and then on the *Daily Sketch*. Space reporters were paid by the amount of space they filled. Some weeks Wise earned more than the staff reporters.

Mobilised as soon as the war broke out, he was eventually commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment. In January 1942 he had volunteered for the newly raised Paras when the Suffolks were suddenly sent to Singapore, arriving there three weeks before the surrender. Wise was wounded and received a mention in dispatches for the gallantry he displayed during a night action against Japanese tanks.

Wise returned to British journalism in Kenya where, in the early 1950s, he was working as an aerial photographer after a spell as a reporter on the *Rand Daily Mail*. He soon became a stringer for the *Daily Express*, and was promoted to a staff job when he was the first Nairobi correspondent to interview Ernest Hemingway after he narrowly escaped death in his second air crash within 48 hours.

In those days there was probably not a newspaper in the world that could rival Beaverbrook's *Express* for the resources lavished on foreign coverage. It was a golden era when foreign editors cabled star reporters cash bonuses for stories that pleased them. Wise mostly covered Africa and the Middle East.

In 1960 Hugh Cudlipp lured him to the *Daily Mirror*, and for 15 years he was its chief foreign correspondent. He covered two more Middle East wars, as well as teaching Vietnam's Madame Nhu, a Francophone dragon lady, how to do the Twist since it happened to be on his tape recorder when he interviewed her.

Wise left the *Mirror* in 1975, tired of competing with television, but he regretted it immediately when the Communists launched their last offensive in Vietnam and Saigon fell. He went to Spain to write a novel and some memoirs, but ended up dumping them both in the Mediterranean. He returned to Hong Kong where he got a job on the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. He never had any executive ambition and despised those who had, saying that the point of being a foreign correspondent was to be somewhere foreign and to correspond.

He went to live in France. But in 1995, aged 78 and suffering from prostate cancer, he returned to Saigon during the 20th anniversary of the Communist victory to attend a party of former war correspondents. This resulted in his being briefly arrested and taken to a police station, when some of these old friends thought it a good idea to unfurl a banner proclaiming "Hail Glorious Wise Capitalist". When it had all been sorted out, one of the policemen became so contrite he insisted on holding the unrepentant capitalist's hand. Wise later declared that it was a very moving moment.

Donald Wise was married five times. His first wife, a minor film actress, went off with an American after he had been posted "missing believed killed". As a result, he was the only man in his contingent of repatriated prisoners not to be met off the boat at Liverpool. Two other divorces followed. One ex-wife was seen bashing his 6ft 3in frame with her handbag on the steps of a Tel Aviv hotel, shouting "Take that you superannuated Peter Pan". His fourth wife Eva, whom he adored, died of cancer in Hong Kong in 1973. He eventually found happiness with Daphne Salvesen, the widow of a brother officer with him in Changi Jail. He is survived by her and two daughters and a son.

TONY WAKEFIELD

Tony Wakefield, campaigner for clean beaches, died in Bath on April 25 aged 81. He was born in Brentford on February 19, 1917.

WHEN six-year-old Caroline Wakefield pleaded with her parents to be allowed to swim near their home at Gosport in Hampshire, they could not have had any inkling of how her carefree splashing in the waves would change their lives. Within three months she was dead, killed by polio which her father believed was contracted from that afternoon spent in the sewage-filled waters of Britain's coastline, despite assurances from the Government that they were perfectly safe.

For Tony Wakefield, a chartered electrical engineer, that tragedy in the summer of 1957 was the start of a 41-year crusade to clean up the nation's beaches to make them fit for bathing.

The Coastal Anti-Pollution League, launched in 1958 with Wakefield as chairman, was to become his all-consuming passion. He wanted to publish a blacklist of the worst beaches, but was advised that a "golden list" would be less likely to attract legal action. The first list, of a mere 30 beaches that were clean and safe, appeared in the *Sunday Dispatch* in July 1960.

John Anthony Wakefield was educated at Felsted School in Essex and, after prewar service with the Territorial Army, was commissioned in 1940 into the Royal Engineers, reaching the rank of captain and seeing active service in Sicily and Burma.

On demobilisation he settled in Gosport and, until the death of his daughter, was happy to keep out of the limelight. His first attempt to gain recognition for the cause was by election to the local council. But once elected he found that Gosport council was unmoved by his pleas, seeing no need to spend vast sums on a treatment plant when almost every other seaside town got rid of its sewage in the same way. Realising that it was a national problem, he founded the Coastal Anti-Pollution League.

Later Wakefield learnt not to expect local authorities to invest in expensive treatment plants, and campaigned instead for longer pipelines, going further out to sea and fitted with diffusing and macerating devices..

In 1967 Wakefield moved to Bath, where he was elected on a Conservative ticket to the Avon County Council in 1981. His campaign for clean beaches was a slow but gradual success.

He was asked to contribute to working parties and government reports. His brother, Sir Peter Wakefield, one-time British Ambassador to Belgium, arranged for him to press his case with the European Commissioner for the Environment, and his concerns were partly reflected in the EC's Bathing Water Directive of 1975.



However, an Environment Department report in 1974 showed that 85 per cent of coastal sewage was still dumped between the high-water mark and 100 yards below the low tide line. Nearly a quarter of a century later only 125 beaches out of 755 monitored can be recommended as clean for bathing.

Ten years ago the Coastal Anti-Pollution League was amalgamated with the Marine Conservation Society and Wakefield remained active as vice-chairman of the organisation.

In 1940 Wakefield married Daphne Marler. She died in 1990, and he is survived by his second wife, Elisabeth Le Doze, whom he married in 1993, and by the two sons of his first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the persons or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the assets of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SAIF, Mizil-Ur-Rahman late of 34 East Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 2HP died on 26 September 1997. Particulars to Lancasters Solicitors 486 Chiswick High Road London W4 5TT on or before 25 July 1998, reference CR/SD/Saif.

WHEELER, ALAN RODNEY of 2 Queen Annes Grove, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex died on 1 February 1997 particulars to VANDERPUMP & STREET Solicitors of LOUGH POINT, 2 GLADBECK WAY, ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX EN2 7JS (Ref: MK) before 24 July 1998

LEGAL NOTICES

PAUL GRAHAM ANSTEY - A SOLICITOR'S CLERK
NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS
Notice is hereby given that an Application has been made to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal against Paul Graham Anstey a solicitor's clerk formerly of 26 Bowes Road, Lowestoft, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 9QH for an Order pursuant to Section 43 Solicitors Act 1974.
The said Application will be heard by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 28th July 1998 at the Court Room, 60, Carey Street, London WC2 when the said Paul Graham Anstey should attend.
Failing appearance by the said Paul Graham Anstey the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal may proceed in his absence to make such Order as the Tribunal shall think right.
A copy of the Application and all documents in support may be obtained from the Clerk to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal 60/62 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SX.
Dated this 18th day of May 1998.
Geoffrey Williams, Applicant, Solicitor of 36 West Bute Street, Cardiff CF1 4UA.

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE DEATH OF STEPHEN LAWRENCE

The Inquiry into The Matters Arising From the Death of Stephen Lawrence has begun preparations for its second part "...to identify the lessons to be learned for the investigation and prosecution of racially motivated crimes".

Public hearings of evidence in the first part of the Inquiry - "into matters directly arising from the death of Stephen Lawrence" - are presently underway. The Chairman of the Inquiry, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, expects part two to begin in September.

He is inviting interested organisations and individuals to make written submissions for him to consider when preparing recommendations for the future. Submissions should reach me by July 10.

Anyone wishing to make a submission should first contact me to obtain details of how the written evidence should be submitted. Please contact me at:

THE INQUIRY INTO THE MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DEATH OF STEPHEN LAWRENCE
Room 113
Hannibal House
Elephant & Castle
London SE1 6TE

Telephone No: 0171 277 4526, Fax No: 0171 703 4565

STEPHEN WELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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THE TIMES

OPENING TIMES AND DEADLINES FOR BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH NOTICES

Our offices will be open for the above notices only. For notices to appear on:

Monday 25th May, the deadline is Saturday 23rd May at 12 noon

Tuesday 26th May, the deadline is Monday 25th May at 12 noon

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MILESTONES

Lord Cudlipp, OBE, newspaperman, died on May 17 aged 84. He was born on August 28, 1913.

With a circulation peak of five million, Hugh Cudlipp's *Daily Mirror* of the 1950s and 1960s took newspapers down the road of cheeky populism. Cudlipp had become Editor of the *Sunday Pictorial* at 24, and quickly transformed the paper into a "boisterous" product. During the war he edited the Forces' paper *Union Jack*, before returning to the *Mirror*. From 1964 to 1973 he was also deputy chairman, then chairman of the newspaper and magazine group IPC. He renamed the ailing *Daily Herald*, but even as *The Sun* it did not prosper until acquired by Rupert Murdoch, when it began to soar away from Cudlipp's *Mirror*. After retirement, he became a strong critic of tabloid excesses.

Obituary published on May 18.

Enid Marx, designer, died on May 18 aged 95. She was born on October 20, 1902.

Though Enid Marx the painter and wood-engraver was influenced by Picasso, few of her works were for framing. She studied at the Royal College and dedicated herself to pattern-making for industrial purposes. Her output included scarves, wallpapers, packaging, book jackets, stamps and other everyday items. Her hardwearing



fabric for London Transport seat covers led to work on Utility furniture. She also wrote for children.

Boris Ford, literary critic and educationist, died on May 19 aged 80. He was born on July 1, 1917.

A protégé of F. R. Leavis at Cambridge, Boris Ford so impressed his tutor with an undergraduate essay on *Wuthering Heights* that it was published in *Scrutiny*. During the war he worked in army education, and later he spread his net wide as an educator. His *Pelican Guide to English Literature* appeared in seven volumes between 1954 and 1961 and was reissued — extensively rewritten and expanded — in the 1980s. Meanwhile, he worked for the United Nations and on education policy, and was successively editor of the *Journal of Education*, head of schools broadcasting for ITV, and education secretary of Cambridge University Press. He was then a professor of education at Sheffield, Sussex and Bristol.

Obituary published on May 21.

Wolf Mankowitz, author, playwright and scriptwriter, died on May 20 aged 73. He was born on November 7, 1924.

Another of Leavis's pupils, Wolf Mankowitz set himself up on graduation as a writer, editor, lecturer and antiques dealer. His first novel, *Make Me An Offer* (1952), was about a sharp Wedgwood dealer in pursuit of a replica of the Portland Vase. He quickly began writing screenplays, including the spoof Bond film *Casino Royale* and *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*. Stage success with *The Bespoke Overcoat*, *Expresso Bongo* and *Make Me An Offer*, and his associ-



ation with Joan Littlewood and the Theatre Workshop, led him to take on the role of impresario for himself and others. But though his work was varied and popular, it was criticised for veering towards the facile, and sustained artistic achievement eluded him.

Obituary published on May 22.

Equities end week on steady note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
648	505	Allied Domecq	617	-10	4.0	15.1
412½	295	Bulmer (HP)	356½	...	5.2	11.1
42¼	18½	Burn Stewart	21	...	10.1	
784	432	Diageo▼	735	+15	2.4	32.1
900	755	Glenmorangie A	780	...	2.3	...
325	258	Highland Distl	306½	...	3.7	14.2
215	160	Matthew Clark	212½	...	11.8	6.9
58½	37½	Merrydown W	60	+3½	7.8	.
2021½	1368¼	SA Breweries	1918¾	-9¾	2.1	.

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1609½	1178½	ABN-AMRO	1556½	...	2.0	22.4
1345	1010	Abbey Ntl	1090	+13	3.5	18.7
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	808	...	3.2	16.3
854	587½	Allied Irish	813	-8	2.3	22.8
458½	376½	Ass New Z	422½	-¼	4.8	..
5416¾	3881½	Bank America	5225	+16¾		
813	431	Bank Scotland	737½	-5½	1.7	19.7
1986	1068	Barclays	1686	+26	2.7	15.7
1309	916½	Bk of Ireland	1180	-21	2.1	..
£102½	6790¾	Citicorp	9518¾	-168¾		
1690¼	1565¼	Commerzbk	1690¼	...	3.2	...
543½	290½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	400	+3½	1.0	...
5398¾	3868¾	Deutsche Bk	5359¼	-3¼	1.2	..
1206½	1152½	Espirito Santo	1193¼	...	1.1	..
531	245½	Fuji Bank Y	329½	-4½	1.2	65.2
2073	1294	HSBC	1660	-21	3.8	13.3
2002	937	HSBC HK	1578	-11	4.0	12.6
1000	700½	Halifax	842½	+33½	2.6	24.4
842½	642½	Irish Perm	782½	...	2.1	22.7
1090	698	Lloyds TSB	893½	-5	2.4	23.8
916½	770½	Nat Aust Bk	856	+3	4.3	..
1241	751	Nat West	1120	-19	3.6	23.9
673	510	Northern Rock	573	+1	3.3	21.5
1089	565	Ryl Bk Scott	1037	-1	2.7	19.3
1050	528	Stand Chartd	792	+5	2.9	12.8
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164¾	...	1.9	..
439	395½	Westpac	408½	-6¼	3.4	..
400	308	Woolwich	356½	+2½	3.3	18.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1185	873	Bass▼	1094	+7	3.3	18.8
62½	50½	Bit for the Bdr	62½	+4½	3.8	18.7
162½	144½	Burtonwd Brw	162½	+3½	4.8	16.1
144½	110	City Centre Rest	142	...	2.5	22.1
1275	581	Compass Gp	1389	+42	0.9	41.6
334½	280½	Eldridge P 'A'	328½	+5	2.3	16.6
384½	251½	Enterprise Inns	372½	+1	2.6	21.2
475	425	Fuller Sm 'A'	472½	...	2.8	15.2
507	400	Greenalls Gp	500	+4½	4.4	11.6
780	676½	Greene King	718½	+4½	2.9	14.7
285½	197½	Grosvenor Inns	285	...	2.8	37.3
352	260	Groupe Chez Gert	353	+1½	1.2	24.4
263½	214½	Hardy Hanson	260	...	5.5	11.3
2175	1825	Holt Jt	2007½	...	4.2	...
76	62	Inn Business	72½	...	3.2	10.9
305	279	Mansfield	303½	+1½	3.0	12.5
320½	254½	Mission Thmp	314½	+4½	3.3	11.1
442½	402½	Morland	407½	...	4.0	10.3
393½	294½	Old Eng Pub	382½	+1	1.0	..
31½	21½	Paramount	25½	...		
828½	678½	PizzaExpress	797½	...	0.6	36.0
377½	297½	Ramsdens (H)	350	+5	1.8	32.6
388½	302½	Regent Inns	386½	...	1.2	27.6
227	140½	SFI	209½	+¼	0.5	36.5
950	717	Scot & Newc	872½	-2½	3.2	17.4
288½	227	Vaux Group	280½	+11	5.1	11.4
342	273½	Wetherspoon JD	315½	-2½	0.8	33.9
1145	850	Whitbread	990	-20	3.3	17.6
530	469	Wolvrhmptn D	519½	+4	4.7	11.0
528½	381	Yates Bros	527½	...	0.7	38.0
667½	637½	Young 'A'	640	...	3.0	36.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
74¼	49½	Aggregate Inds	72½	+1¼	3.0	25.0
249	199	Anglian Group	249	...	4.7	15.0
445½	290	BPB	432	-1½	2.8	19.8
118½	86½	Baggeridge Bk	118	...	3.8	12.7
62½	44½	Blockleys	50½	...	1.1	57.7
407	371½	Blue Circle	387	...	3.7	14.6
123½	98½	Breedon PLC	120	...	6.0	14.5
192½	125½	Br Dredging	189	...	4.3	20.5
931½	705	CRH	923½	+1	1.1	23.1
62½	47½	Caledonian Rbyt	60½	...	7.7	5.1
152½	107½	Cape	152½	...	5.3	13.1
216½	158½	Carador	205½	-1	3.0	14.2
116½	100½	Cecalion plt	112½	-¼	8.1	..
130½	90½	Chieftain Gp	105	...	5.1	7.7
219	212½	Dyson (J&J)	212½	...	3.4	12.7
120	100	Dyson 'A'	100	...	7.2	6.0
60½	43½	Eastbine	55	...		
197½	147	Epwin	169	...	7.5	8.9
131½	101½	Gibbs & Dandy	129	...	3.9	11.9
300	154	Graham Grp	187	...	4.0	18.5
282½	227½	Halstead (J)	248	...	5.2	16.1
395	245	Hanson	370	+5	4.1	12.8
265	179	Hepworth	256	+4	4.4	..
178½	120½	Hewden	171½	+3	4.7	11.3
264½	202½	Heywd Wlm	263½	-1	6.5	10.0
66	43	Ibstock	57	...	4.8	14.2
365	250	Johnston	325	...	4.7	17.1
107½	84½	Litlestairs	105	...	6.0	10.4
121½	82½	Marley	119½	+1½	5.2	10.3
162½	120	Marshalls	162	+2	4.2	15.0
430	328½	Meyer Intl	430	+14	3.6	16.0
77½	64½	Norcros	74	...	3.2	16.3
139	103½	Pilkington	137½	+1½	4.2	17.6
196	156½	Polypipe	190½	...	2.3	14.2
34	14½	Quiligotti	18½	...		13.8
1210	740½	RMC Grp	1162	+20	2.8	16.9
117½	78½	Rubeoid	112½	-¼	5.4	12.8
141	111½	Rugby Group	140	+5	3.6	20.1
93½	73½	Russell (A)	91½	+3	4.1	13.6
275½	195½	SIG	274½	+1	3.6	13.9
3¼	1½	SWP	3	+¼	..	
237½	230½	Sharpe & Fisher	236½	...	3.3	14.6
25	14½	Spring Ram	21	-½	0.6	..
309	144½	Streamline Hldgs	309	+7½	3.7	..
130½	93	Tarmac	129	-1	5.5	15.5
130	83	Tilon	120	+20	5.6	11.8
628½	457	Travis Perkins	605	+5	2.3	18.6
107½	60½	Tudor	105½	-1	3.6	13.6
352	180½	Ultraframe	349½	...	1.3	37.0
570	400	Wolseley	430	-5	3.4	13.7

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
188	134½	Albright & Wilt	184	...	3.9	18.2
127½	106½	Amber Ind	126½	...	5.7	10.0
107½	90½	Amberley Gp	104	+1½	2.0	17.6
100	72	Allfloor Er	94½	...	1.5	..
2825	2003½	BASF DM	2825	+31½	2.5	..
1109	850	BOC	977	...	3.6	17.8
555	331½	BTP	509	-6	2.9	24.4
2862½	2131½	Bayer DM50	2816½	-46½	2.1	..
126	94½	Brent Chems	117½	+1	3.2	13.3
341½	210½	Br Vita	341½	...	3.2	17.2
187½	128½	Brunner Mond	186	...	5.8	10.2
296	252½	Canning (W)	279½	+1	4.1	13.4
229½	155	City Technology	205	...	2.3	39.6
474	234	Courtaulds	471½	+1	3.5	31.2
469	351½	Croda	461	...	2.2	22.3
283½	203½	Doeflex	283½	+2	3.7	12.1
166½	116	Elements	166½	+4½	..	26.4
313½	280½	Ellis & Everard	297	...	4.3	12.7
71½	53½	Euro Colour	71½	+1	4.3	12.7
246½	138½	Gibbon	345	...	4.3	..
94½	64½	Hickson	90	...	1.1	15.7
2816¾	2096½	Hoechst	2778¼	+6¼	1.9	..
1244	738½	ICI	1191	...	2.7	47.3
320	189	Inspec	320	+2½	2.6	14.4
193½	141½	Kalon	183½	-½	4.2	27.2
867½	605	Laporte	846½	+2½	3.0	17.1
75	47	Meristem	73	-½	4.1	7.0
35	27	Metrotect	32	...	4.1	8.1
380	320	Porvair	330	-15	2.3	18.4
231	181½	Scapa	217½	-½	3.4	11.8
26½	16½	Solcolite Speak	24½	...	6.3	..
1761½	1455½	Takeda Chem	1619½	-35½	0.4	30.5
248	221½	Vickers	245	+1	2.4	22.1
685	595	Wassime R	642½	-2½	5.3	10.3
240	190	Yorks Grp	227½	...	5.3	14.4
437	282½	Yule Catto	427	+1	2.9	17.5

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58½	19½	AAF Inds	52	+½		
375	330	Abbey	375	...	2.2	28.2
459½	332½	Allen	457½	-1	2.4	22.5
196½	114	Amec	156	-1½	3.2	19.2
805	400	Amey	805	+12½	1.7	25.9
1250	715	Ancvins Sykes▼	1250	+10	1.5	25.0
286½	180	Ashtead	280	...	1.0	34.9
48½	28½	Ansty	45½	...	4.1	8.7
38½	35½	Bandt	38	-½	3.9	18.2
73	48½	Barcom	70	...	2.7	17.3
329	224	Barratt Devt	326½	+7½	3.6	14.3
232	161½	Beazer	212½	+2	4.0	12.0
401½	320½	Bellway	387½	+6½	3.7	12.8
25½	18½	Benwarch	25	...		8.6
95½	46½	Ben Bailey	77½	...	3.5	9.0
775	562½	Berkeley Gp	769½	+12	1.6	13.5
170	146	Bey Bros	169	+8	5.2	4.7
315	270	Boot (Henry)	286	...	3.7	10.6
276½	192½	Bovis Homes	250½	-1	4.7	11.0
165½	105	Brandon Hire	165	...	2.5	20.1
49½	37½	Britannia Grpt	40½	...	4.3	16.3
155½	109	Bryant	128	+1	4.9	11.8
127½	102½	CALA	124½	...	3.9	7.7
4	3	Campbll & Arm	3	...		
136½	83½	Clarke T	133½	+5	5.7	9.2
42½	20	Costain	39½	...		
129½	97½	Countryside	115½	...	3.6	9.0
142	94½	Crest Nicholson	136½	...	3.4	11.6
122½	85½	Crossrail	116½	+1	4.8	9.0
242	160	Eve Group	241	...	2.7	17.8
23½	19½	Galliford	23½	+¼	5.5	13.7
1100	1015	Gleeson (MJ)	1030	...	2.3	15.0
175	98	Havelock Euro	105	...	5.8	8.9
302	152	Hewden-Stuart	202	+1½	2.2	24.3
38	20	Howard Hldgs	23	...	5.4	22.8
726½	369½	Jarvis	725	+17½	1.1	37.2
252½	181	Keller	250	...	2.6	..
232½	199½	Kier	211½	-1	4.3	10.6
370½	309½	Laing (J)	361½	...	3.6	19.4
126	117½	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	125½	-½	6.4	..
14½	8½	Lovell (YJ)	12½	-¼		
212½	155½	Maunders (J)	209½	...	3.8	12.1
180	133½	McAlpine (A)	168½	...	5.6	10.0
191½	113½	McCarthy & S	189	...	2.2	13.7
142½	70	McInerney	137½	...	0.9	15.6
236½	171½	Morgan Sindall	230	...	2.9	14.0
397½	307	Morrison Cons	378½	...	1.8	21.2
127	77½	Mowlem (J)	125½	+½	4.0	11.5
259½	182½	Persimmon	244	-1½	5.1	11.5
109½	80½	Peterhouse	91½	...	5.1	6.4
124	112	Prochus	124	...	2.8	13.7
158½	116	Prowting	150½	+2	3.9	..
198	147½	Redrow	171	...	2.7	12.6
325	222½	Scancos	317½	...	1.6	18.3
94½	72	Swan Hill	75	...	4.6	13.6
142½	114	Tay Homes	127½	+2½	7.5	10.3
238	174	Taylor Woodrw	233½	+4	1.9	17.7
283½	180	Tilbury Dougls	282	+2	4.3	15.5
29½	21½	Try Group	26	...	2.9	9.5
78½	63½	Vibroplant	78½	...	6.4	..
135½	109½	Wainhomes	133½	...	4.4	13.8
58	38½	Ward Hldgs	49½	...	6.6	7.8
272½	228½	Westbury	266½	...	3.5	11.4
15	12½	Wegsco	12½	-¼	..	18.1
151	139½	Wilson (C)	167	-1	4.1	..
697½	511	Wilson Bowden	697½	...	2.2	14.3
140½	97½	Wimpey G	131	...	5.4	10.9

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
257½	183½	Acton Cp Sptst	249½	+½	1.4	20.8
335	237½	Adam & Harvey	322½	...	8.8	4.9
		Alexanders	23	-¼	..	
2		Ass Br Eng	1½	...		58.8
457	350	BSS Group	354	+1½	7.4	10.6
28½	12½	Bearing Power	18	-1	..	
34½	34½	Boxpod 'A'	34½	...	3.3	5.5
730	550	Brammer	730	...	2.8	16.3
16	10½	Bridgend Gp	14½	...	1.7	23.1
113½	79	Brit Fittings	108½	+1	5.9	9.0
372½	345	Caffyns	360	...	4.5	8.3
206	170½	Cox Group	201½	...	3.0	22.8
167½	134½	Coverdale	167½	...	3.0	10.6
64	31½	Cook (DC)	48	+½	6.4	6.9
137½	95½	Dag Motors	130½	...	8.4	7.0
129½	105½	Dennis El	119½	...	3.4	8.6
265	210	Diploma	225	-½	8.2	9.2
601	450	Electrocomponts	584	+34	1.7	31.4
186	143½	Evans Eng	176½	...	3.8	30.3
112½	84½	European Mtr	111½	...	6.6	8.7
305	250½	Evans Halshaw	297½	...	7.1	9.5
70½	38½	Fife Indmar	64½	...	7.2	7.3
400½	357½	Finelist Grp	371	...	2.7	14.8
27½	21½	Gardner	26	...	4.8	11.1
82½	60½	Glanchewton	69	...	3.6	9.8
135½	89½	Goodwin	122½	-1	3.8	11.6
18½	13	HR Owen	15½	...	6.5	10.1
402	340	Headlam	385	...	2.3	19.7
160	135	Hedges Techt	135	...	6.2	8.4
120	72½	ISA Intl	74	...	5.6	7.3
250	136½	Inchcape	230	+11	5.1	27.7
80	57½	Jacks (Wm)	65½	...	6.9	..
363½	351½	Kwik-Fit	581	...	1.4	26.1
614	422½	Lex Service	600½	+5½	3.6	15.2
123	100	Lookers	120	...	8.6	8.1
508	351	Menzies (John)	505½	...	3.4	16.4
5¼	3½	Middlesex	3½	...	3.3	9.2
19½	16½	Midstatest	17½	...	3.4	..
310	342	Nortain	309	+14	3.6	12.5
261	197½	Northumber	242½	...	1.5	18.1
342	295½	Parkot	315	...	3.5	15.2
312½	249½	Pendragon	280	...	4.8	13.2
255	167½	Perry Gp	248½	-1½	4.9	9.5
442	372	Premier Farnell	373½	+½	4.3	14.8
164½	119½	Quicks Group	161½	...	6.0	11.0
265	140	REA	175	-10	2.3	29.4
3	1½	Reece	2½	...		
38½	30½	Ring	37	-1	...	
12½	4½	Ronson	6½	...		
5	3½	Ross Gp	4½	...		10.6
112½	97½	Ryland	101½	...	5.4	7.7
31	25½	SEP Ind	29½	...	5.3	15.5
30	16½	Saltire	22½	...	8.7	..
287½	211½	Sanderson Bros	286	...	2.4	10.4
61½	48	Sedgemoor	61½	+1½	3.5	15.5
279½	236½	Sykes	269½	...	3.2	12.6
199½	157½	Time Products	157½	-1	10.4	..
215	132½	Trust Motor Grp	196	-1½	1.6	3.3
432	390	UMECO	405	+1	1.8	21.6
124	68½	United Gases Grp	103½	+½	1.4	..
299½	244½	Vardy (Reg)	271½	+½	3.5	12.8
800	655	WF Electr	770	...	2.5	23.8
192½	140	Wyko	180½	+1½	2.3	17.0
165½	135	Young (H)	165	+½	3.6	11.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
330	297	Antofagasta	320	-1	2.2	27.9
385	229	Accol Hldgs	385	...	3.8	11.6
642	518½	Broken Hill	528	+½	3.7	14.9
697½	488½	BAT	586	+3	5.0	14.3
43½	31½	Brierley Inv	32½	...	8.5	8.1
279½	167	Cookson	244	+6	3.8	14.2
277½	217½	Cosalt	252½	...	5.9	8.4
613	410	DCC	611½	...	1.4	..
383	302	Gallaher	306½	-½	7.8	8.7
450½	288	Hutch Whamp	335	-5½	3.8	..
474½	383½	Imperial Tob	456½	-2½	6.1	10.8
335½	204½	Jardine Math	204½	-2½	7.5	9.5
94½	72½	Lonrho Africa	84½	-½	3.4	8.7
623½	474½	Powell Duffryn	622½	...	5.8	16.2
147	101	Slavley	123	...	9.1	16.1
368½	255	Swire Pacific	258½	-2½	5.4	..
383	241½	TT Group	380	-1½	2.9	14.5
384½	288	Tomkins	365½	-5½	3.4	15.1
250	207½	Unidare	250	...	6.5	12.7
570	415	Wardle Storeys	570	+1½	4.6	16.6
381½	301½	Wassall	333	...	2.3	15.7
135½	108½	Whitecroft	108½	...	5.4	17.6

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
699	310	Br Energy	585	+7	3.4	20.5
889½	600	Energy Group	842	+½	3.1	18.9
397	258½	National Grid▼	369	+2	3.9	14.8
700	518½	National Power	560	+1½	8.2	11.3
900	725	PowerGen	764	-1	4.8	11.2
597½	502½	Hydro-Elect	573½	-1½	4.0	13.1
599	475	Scottish Power	540	-5	4.8	12.8
580	467	Southern Elec	535½	+3½	5.2	14.3
615	522	Viridian	576	...	5.1	12.7

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
990	715	ARM Holdings	805	-15	..	
364½	304½	Apol	355½	-1	3.5	11.5
1207½	690	Admiral	1195	...	0.3	..
58½	27½	Amstrad	56½	-2	1.1	..
35	26½	Arlen	33½	...	4.8	10.8
129½	96½	Astec	97	...	2.0	10.3
70½	43½	Aston	55	...		
182½	127½	BICC	168½	-1	5.9	..
97½	51½	Beales Hunter	85½	-1	14.9	8.3
405	260	Bick	405	+2½	4.3	13.8
585½	345½	Bowthorpe	585½	+3	2.4	22.3
18	12	Bulgin A	17¼	-¼	9.6	..
285½	150½	CML Micro	189½	...	4.0	22.6
27½	10	Channel Hldgs	13½	...	10.5	4.3
43½	39½	Chloride	47½	...	1.8	11.5
109½	64½	Clarkhills	102½	...	4.4	11.3
897½	722½	Crickley	897½	...	1.8	24.0
339½	213½	Delta	329	...	4.9	12.8
451	392	Domino	450	+1½	3.4	15.8
77½	51	Dowding Mills	68½	...	5.6	12.9
330	240	Druck	312½	...	0.7	33.7
6268¼	4118¼	Electrolux 'B'	6268¼	+37½	1.6	..
28	17	Ernest	27½	...	2.7	18.6
3449½	2128¼	Ericsson 'B'	3449½	+68½	0.8	35.3
491½	311	Eurotherm	488½	+3½	2.8	21.5
590	462	Faley Group	463½	-2	2.5	13.3
587½	426	Filtronic	431½	-2½	0.5	29.8
18½	7	Forward Tech	17½	...	1.8	..
550	338	GEC	522	+2½	3.2	24.1
48½	35½	Ind Control	48½	-1	1.3	..
33	15	Intelek	18	...	6.8	..
73	54½	LPA	73	+1	3.9	26.9
425	425	Mitel	425			
180½	117½	Network Tech	162	+3	1.0	18.8
329	255	Oxford Inst	316	...	3.0	11.1
31	23½	Pace Micro	28½	...	3.0	..
6271½	3450	Philips Lmp nv	6068¼	-203¼	0.8	..
88½	38½	Plasmon	67½	...	1.9	..
356	273½	Pressac	341½	-11	1.6	24.9
60½	27	Prestwick	32½	-2½	4.2	9.1
462½	234	Psion	234	-3½	1.3	22.7
371½	243½	Racal Elect	371½	+16½	2.0	18.0
90½	51½	Radamec	71	+1	5.6	15.2
505	335	Renishaw	487½	...	2.3	28.5
1½	1½	Rodime		...		15.4
292½	191½	Roxboro	284	-1	3.2	14.7
351½	202½	SDX Bus Sys	336½	...	0.9	40.3
377½	244	Servomex	312½	...	3.8	15.4
58½	36½	Silvermines	54½	-½	3.3	12.3
9012½	4139½	TDK	4737½	-68½	0.6	..
72½	59	TGI	62½	...	7.1	6.5
125	68½	TLG	117½	...	4.4	13.9
62	7	Tadpole Tech	22½	-1½	..	
59½	38½	Telemetrix	52½	...	3.8	12.7
365	330	Telspec	327½	...		
150½	122½	Thorpe FW	142½	-4	4.1	7.8
159½	70½	Total Systems	156½	-2	1.1	33.8
160	100	Tunstall	159	...	4.1	20.8
18	7	Ultima Networks	12½	+1½	8.7	..
111	66½	Vesity	106	...	0.1	..
195½	84½	Verri	188½	...	3.8	16.9
40½	28½	Vigilon Technology	30	+½	1.7	..
587½	460	Volex	587	...	4.6	16.1

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
307½	217½	ABM	282½	-10	3.3	13.3
44	28½	ASW	33	-1	..	
255	145	Alumasc	183½	...	5.8	8.3
205½	129½	Alvis	205½	+6	2.1	14.4
176½	159½	Ash & Lacy	174½	...	5.5	8.3
135	70	Ayrshire Metal	70	...	9.8	4.5
535½	345½	BBA	527	...	1.5	21.6
230½	154½	BTR▼	207	+6	4.6	13.6
97½	68½	BWI	87½	-½	4.6	9.9
92½	61	Babcock	88	-1	1.8	..
12½	8½	Bailey (CH)	12½	+1	2.5	
109	77	Baynes (Charles)	109	+1	3.7	15.5
27½	10	Beaufort	10½	+½	9.5	..
256	181½	Benshard	248½	...	3.1	11.1
103½	84	Bestd Cv Un Ln	102½	+½	4.9	
1286	867½	Bodycote	1267½	-5	1.0	38.9
44½	35½	Booth Inds	41		..	
20½	15½	Brasway	17	...	6.6	7.7
141	117½	Bridport	119½	-½	5.0	13.4
555	381½	Br Aerospace	515	+4½	1.2	22.4
172	122½	Br Steel	160½	-2	7.8	14.7
159½	136½	Brooke Intl	145	...	4.6	7.5
16½	9½	Brunel	11	-½	5.7	5.1
102½	92½	Bullough	100½	-1	7.2	10.4
36	25½	Cairns	33½	+½	4.1	66.6
217½	150	Cardo Eng	204½	-½	6.6	12.2
229½	181½	Castings	215½	-2	3.5	..
272½	190	Chamberlain Hlt	217½	-15	5.5	..
779	570	Charter	778½	-½	4.0	25.4
160½	118½	Chemring	157½	+1½	2.4	..
275	175	Clyde Blowers	176½	-1½	5.0	27.6
1219	732½	Cobham	1219	+29	1.4	31.5
430	365	Cohen (A)	365	-10	..	
147½	105½	Concentric	136½	-6	6.9	24.4
364½	184½	David Brown	349½	+2	4.7	..
507	388½	DS	506½	+2	3.5	19.7
32½	16	Delco	32½	...		13.2
112½	72½	Elliott (B)	110	...	3.6	14.6
47	27	Energy Tech	46½	...	4.0	44.0
161½	124½	Expamet	161	...	3.0	15.5
228½	147½	FKI	213½	-½	3.1	19.4
216	167½	Fenner	195½	...	2.8	14.8
3	1½	Ferum	2½		..	
40	29	Firth Hldgs	37	-½	0.8	27.8
177½	126½	Firth Rixson	172	...	2.0	21.0
45½	27½	Flare	27½	-2	4.5	24
112½	91½	GEI Intl	112½	...	5.0	11.4
204	149½	Galton Eng	202½	...	5.1	7.0
331½	216½	Glynwedd	298½	...	5.5	12.0
159½	92½	Haden MacLn	157½	-1	2.5	16.0
255	185	Hadleigh	230½	-8	3.8	10.9
257	160	Hall Engt	257	...	4.0	10.3
140½	99½	Halma	123	-2	2.4	17.5
83½	64½	Hampson Ind	80½	-½	3.9	16.4
69½	32½	Hay (Norman)	62	-2	2.8	17.3
69½	40½	Headway	58½	+2	3.4	7.8
71½	42½	Hill & Smith	69½	...	7.6	17.5
111½	65½	How Gp	111	...	3.2	15.7
246½	210½	Hunting	246	...	4.1	13.2
532	378	IMI	532	+3	2.6	17.3
652	467½	Johnson Matt	623½	-4	2.6	15.7
28½	22½	Jones Shipman	22½	...	6.3	9.3
430	365	Kelsey Ind	409	+4	8.6	7.0
418	299½	Lincat	382½	...	3.5	12.1
32½	23½	Locker (T)	27½	-½	4.5	10.2
22½	16½	MS Intl	20½	...	3.7	..
460	403½	Mang Bronze	448½	+4	2.8	18.6
569½	377½	McKechnie	565½	+16½	3.8	14.9
179½	155½	McLeod Russel	178½	...	4.9	13.0
241	154½	Meggitt	241	+½	2.4	25.9
115	82½	Metalrax	114	+5	4.6	15.6
14½	11½	Metaltech	14	...	7.8	..
213½	142½	Molsec	204½	...	3.1	11.2
357½	237½	Molins	350½	...	7.5	..
501½	392½	Morgan Crucl	486½	+1	4.0	15.5
57½	49½	Polymedex	55	...	8.9	7.4
608½	169	Powerscreen	169½	+½	7.7	4.4
230½	155½	Quadrant	230	-½	5.8	11.8
50	20½	Queensl Grp	35½		..	
60	50	Radiant Metal	55		..	
290½	226½	Renold	230	-½	2.9	17.7
85	73	Richardson Westl	82½	...	6.8	7.3
309	188	Rolls-Royce	300	+6	2.5	22.7
387	269	Rotork	387	+12	3.0	25.8
245	140	Rubicon	245	...	3.2	17.5
1425	1153½	SKF 'B'	1350	+34½	3.1	12.4
233	139½	Senior Engt	233	+3	1.8	21.5
612½	481½	Sidlaw	577½	+22½	2.2	17.9
1554	975	Siebe	1523	+9	1.0	27.2
148½	114½	Six Hundred	146½	...	4.3	10.4
989	702	Smiths Indst	935	+12	2.3	22.3
18½	9	Solvera	11½	+½	2.6	
706	542½	Spirax-Sarco	682½	-5	2.7	17.8
327	262½	Sterling Ind	325½	+6	4.0	11.9
650	424	TI	619½	+14½	2.8	19.4
113½	89½	Tinsley (E)	109½	...	7.1	10.1
87½	64½	Transtec	81½	...	4.2	11.3
277½	270	Triplex Lloyd	277½	...	3.2	18.8
417	347½	Ultra Elect	405	...	2.2	18.8
76½	55½	Utd Inds	65½	-1	5.1	9.2
252½	198	Vickers	243½	+2½	3.7	15.1
11	7½	Villiers Grp	10½	...		
760	584	Vitec	758½	...	2.3	14.2
900	740	Vosper Thorny	860	-6	4.3	12.4
395	280	Wagon Ind	392½	...	3.8	17.4
314½	222½	Weir	289½	+10	3.9	13.4
177½	137½	Wellington Hldg	177½	+3	5.8	12.0
89½	55	Wescott	82½	...	2.4	18.3
810	750	Whatman	805	+17½	2.1	23.7
58½	42½	Widney	58½	...	7.9	6.2

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156½	123	Adwest	155½	...	5.0	12.1
223	150	Airflow Stream	220	-1½	4.7	...
695	617	Avon Rubber	695	+3	3.1	13.8
346	300	Beaumont	307½	...	3.0	11.0
186½	114½	Brown	186½	+9½	2.1	20.4
363½	291½	Dennis	363½	...	3.4	15.2
410½	277½	First Tech	408½	+1	1.2	26.8
930	525½	GKN	925	+12	1.8	23.6
4634½	3418½	General Mtr	4600	+43½	2.7	...
585	414½	Hepco	583½	+1	3.5	14.7
2326½	1981½	Honda Motor	2097½	-23½	0.4	...
480	384½	Laird	461½	-4½	3.1	12.2
288	196	LucasVarity	276	+½	2.0	18.6
241½	158½	Mayflower	229½	-½	1.5	22.4
134½	95½	Sylone	133½	+7	6.1	11.0
281	252½	T & N	259	...	4.4	15.0
31½	22½	Tosol	24½			
44½	36½	Wickser	44½	+½	2.4	12.0

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	526	AB Food	558	+30	2.3	17.3
270	215	Acatos & Hutch	237	+4½	5.5	25.0
37	24½	Albion Fisher	29	...	14.5	11.2
285	193	Banks (S C)	194	...	7.4	7.8
502½	417	Barr (AG)	502½	+6½	4.2	...
44½	34	Bensons Crsp	44	+½	4.5	9.4
360	209	Booker	271½	-2	11.0	12.0
930	571½	Brake Bros	930	...	1.5	25.2
129	85	CPL Aromas	117½	...	5.1	33.9
950	600	Cadbury-Schwpt	932	+11	1.9	25.1
262	135	Carrs Milling	137½	...	10.5	6.8
323	234½	Carrwest	323	+13	4.6	...
369½	253	Dairy Crest Group	361½	-2	3.5	15.2
416	273½	Dalgety	415	...	2.9	...
67	37½	Daniels S	55	...	1.1	18.1
345½	375	Devro	487½	+3	2.4	21.0
186½	149½	Express Dairies	169½	-½	5.9	14.0
139½	99	Finlay (James)	139½	+3	3.0	14.9
560	404	Geest	546	+3½	2.3	21.7
15½	8½	Global	12	-1	7.3	15.3
380	285	Greencore	340	...	2.6	18.7
213	164½	Hazlewood Fds	213	+1½	4.2	15.3
196½	142	Hillsdown	194½	+2½	6.1	12.2
413	392	Linton Park	411½	...	7.0	6.9
113½	86	Matthews (B)	111½	+2	4.8	17.1
227½	205½	Nichols (V)	219½	...	4.5	11.5
240	182	Nilin Foods	218½	...	5.7	12.4
20	14½	Nutrition Fe	14½	...	1.7	7.5
127½	88½	Paramount Foods	126½	+½	5.1	14.5
57	28½	Pascoes	36	...	...	...
135½	82½	Perkins Food	133½	...	4.3	17.2
83½	65½	Plant & Gen	72	...	...	...
92	80	Sooty Farms	87½	...	4.3	...
34½	19½	Shire Food	27½	-½	...	2.9
583	440½	Tate & Lyle	500	+15	3.4	11.2
158	111½	Treat	150	+19	5.0	15.5
738½	581½	Unigate	656	-1½	3.9	15.8
685	346½	Uniq	680	+15	1.5	31.9
4846½	3500	Unilever (NV)	4843½	-3½	1.4	12.9
290	216½	Utd Biscuits	280	+7	4.7	19.9
62½	44½	WT Foods	55½	-1	3.4	21.3

HEALTHCARE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
498½	318½	Alloc UniChemt	488½	+½	2.5	21.6
167	135	Assoc Nursg	164	...	2.9	25.8
955	693	Bespak	952½	+2½	1.7	27.3
525	115	Biocompat Intl	147½	-6	...	
179½	144	Care UK	179½	...	0.9	19.3
69½	35	Celsis	47½	...		
549½	388½	Community H	548	+1	2.7	20.0
33	26½	CrestaCare	30½	-¼	3.8	15.4
18	7½	Enviromed	18	...		
164½	122½	Farcrats Group	144	-1	3.0	12.4
170½	144½	Gyrus	170	...		
232½	141	Hunting Tec	230	+4	1.7	28.8
138½	91½	Innovative Tech	122½	+14		
95	88	Intercare Grp	85½	...	5.0	47.3
580	495	Isotron	576	...	1.4	20.6
205½	150	Lon Intl	198½	...	1.7	26.6
310½	180½	Nestor Hlthcr	310½	+3	1.6	33.3
2758	1733	Nycomed Amshm	1982	-28	1.2	22.0
5½	5½	Premier Healthcr	5½	...		
11	6½	Regina	8	...		
467½	258½	Scholl	467½	+6½	2.3	25.7
757½	501½	Seton Health	756½	+3	1.7	...
810	507½	Shield Diag	582½	+22½	...	
230	171½	Sinclair Mont	190	+4	0.1	...
194	150	Smith & Neph	171½	+1	3.7	15.5
2¼	2	Tanaris	2	...	5.1	13.6
412½	315	West Hlthcare	316½	-7	2.7	14.4

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
167½	132½	Airsprung	158½	+2½	5.1	10.0
196	185½	Alba	192½	...	4.0	10.9
85	55	Albion	85	...	5.5	7.8
168½	120½	Alexandra W	166½	+1	5.4	...
187½	124	Allied Textile	151½	...	7.0	9.9
25½	13½	Amber	23½	+¼	4.0	57.8
205	157	BLP Group	165	...	5.7	6.0
285½	208	Baird (Wm)	244½	+¼	5.4	12.3
53½	48½	Bilston Batt	48½	...	2.0	...
148½	97½	Black Arrow	125½	...	4.3	10.3
421½	387½	Black (Peter)	388½	...	2.1	18.1
94½	76	British Mohair	87½	...	5.7	75.4
88½	47½	Claremont Garments	53½	...	11.7	...
100	81½	Coats Viyella	95	+½	4.9	34.6
182½	146	Cornwell Prtr 5p	152½	...	2.7	12.2
368	308	Courtaulds Text	309	...	8.2	11.7
33½	24½	Creighton	25	...		
13½	6½	Dalyaie	6½	...	13.3	...
68½	48	Dawson	56	+½	6.0	6.1
167½	136	Denby Group	166	...	3.4	12.3
267½	225½	Dewhurst	237½	-½	2.8	14.4
27½	17	Dialer Heel	24½	...	8.2	8.9
27	17½	Drummond Group	21	...	3.0	5.6
122½	104½	Eclipse Blinds	122½	+3	3.7	10.7
42	29	Elbeil	31½	...	4.8	6.6
131½	89	Fil Group	89	...	5.6	6.8
34	24	Faupel Trading	27	+1½	10.1	5.5
10½	3½	Foster (J)	3¼	...		
44½	35½	French	35½	...	5.5	
502½	341½	Gaskell	416½	+44	2.8	8.0
78½	60	Haggas (J)	72½	...	7.8	14.1
11½	8½	Harlstone Group	11½	...	5.2	30.6
257½	218½	Helene Pentecost	232½	...	4.1	13.1
4	2½	Hollas Group	2½			
18½	10½	Honeysuckle Gp	14			
94	62½	Horace Small	94	+3½	...	
405	360	IWP Intl	405	...	1.5	18.1
25½	11	Jacques Vert	11½			
52½	37½	Jerome Grp	44	...	9.5	15.8
320	285	Jones Stroud	295	...	4.8	12.5
72½	47½	Jourdan (T)	69½	-½	2.7	
134	80	Kenwood App	110			
245	200	Lambert Howarth	222½	...	4.8	9.8
152	135	Lamont Hldgs	139½	...	12.3	9.2
123	87	Leeds Group	90½	...	9.7	5.7
17	8½	Leslie Wise	14½	...	12.9	6.2
16	12½	Lowndes	15½	...	3.3	12.3
90	68	Lyles (S)	81½	...	3.9	8.2
210	173	McBride	187½	-2½	4.7	13.8
124½	103½	Maybod	120½	...	8.3	8.5
595	550	Osborne & Little	585	...	4.5	11.6
4½	2½	PEX Group	3½	...	3.2	
126	49½	Parkland Group	50	...	10.5	
475	435	Paterson Zch	462	...	4.7	10.2
425	375	Paterson Zch 'A'	418	...	5.2	9.3
129	109½	Peerland Group	122	+½	3.8	17.4
215	185	Pifco	213½	...	3.8	10.8
203	185	Pifco 'A' Vtg	197	-1½	4.1	10.0
60½	37½	Pittards	43½	-1	10.1	9.6
43½	36	Readicut Intl	42½	...	7.6	12.4
1300	852	Reckitt Colman	1217	-10	2.0	21.7
620	430½	Relyon	612½	...	3.0	19.7
36	17½	Richards	24½	...	10.2	
216½	174½	Royal Doulton	215	...	5.8	23.2
37½	20½	SEET	27½			
45½	37½	Sherwood Group	40½	...	11.1	10.8
110½	95½	Sholsh	95½	+1	5.8	11.1
285	260	Sidlaw	273½	+1½	5.4	
70½	52½	Sintz	68	...	10.2	8.6
50	37½	Stirling Group	46½	-½	5.3	10.9
16½	7	Stoddard	7	-1½	13.4	15.3
252½	130	Stoves	133	-1½	5.8	8.5
278½	211½	Swallowfield	229½	...	4.4	10.9
306½	155	Tomkinson	181½	...	8.1	9.0
9½	2½	UK Safety	3			
142	134	Usher (F)	136½	...	10.1	7.0
80	60	Victoria	62½	-2½	5.0	9.9
150	117½	Vymura	143½	...	4.7	10.1
69	40	Walker Greenbk	65	-½	7.4	
105½	80	Warford Wdgwd	100	-2	1.7	28.2
97½	59½	Wensum	91½	...	6.8	7.8
195	195	Wood (Arthur)	195	...	4.5	12.9
140	89½	Yorkyde	110	+11½	5.8	17.0

INSURANCE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4240½	3250	Am Gen	4249½	+28½	2.2	..
146	108	Angerstein	145½	...	9.0	17.3
4043½	3309½	Aon Corpn	3381¼	-62½	1.7	..
65	53½	Bracslock	65	...	11.0	8.7
1364	1102½	Britannic	1256	+2½	3.3	8.5
164	129	CLM Insce	156½	...	8.8	12.3
277½	262½	Charles Taylor	277½	...	2.1	31.0
1300	707	Cmcl Union	1145	+5	2.8	23.2
528½	237	Cox Insce	528½	+12	1.0	..
565	495	Dom & Gen	555	...	2.3	20.4
159	112	Euclidian	133½	...	13.5	17.2
491½	303	FBD (E)	493½	-½	1.9	18.7
1626	897	Gen Accident	1438	-4	3.3	12.2
495	385	GRE	399	...	3.0	5.8
746½	441½	Heath	666	+8	1.5	13.1
206	165	Hiscox	191	+1	2.2	23.1
360	229	Independent	341	...	1.2	17.1
602½	342½	Irish Life	520	-9	2.6	15.3
193	151½	Jardine Lyd Th	192½	+½	6.5	12.9
167½	107	Kiln Capital	167½	+10	2.1	56.5
120½	100½	Lambert Fen	116½	...	9.0	8.2
785	532	Legal & Genl	694	+10½	2.3	17.6
2278½	1421½	Liberty Life	1868½	-9½	2.1	17.2
303½	145	Lloyds Insurance	203½	+12	3.8	12.4
627½	489½	Londn & Manc	534	+5½	5.8	21.9
5586½	4321½	Marsh McLn	5509½	+3½	2.2	
127	100	Mastread	126½	+16	4.0	
87	78	New London Cap	89½	+½	9.3	11.8
568	385	Norwich Union	448½	+3½	3.2	17.8
148½	102½	Ockham	145½	-1½	3.9	16.8
110½	81½	Oval	92½	+1	7.8	54.7
136	117	Premium Trust	136	...	3.6	28.0
1000	720	Prudential	837	+27	2.3	19.7
20½	17½	PWS	20	...	4.7	4.4
825	598	Royal & Sun All	685	+12	3.3	18.2
372½	157½	St James Place	372½	+4	0.5	43.7
169½	132	Sedgwick	153	...	4.6	13.7
29	22½	Steel Burrill	25	-¼	7.5	..
645	484½	Sun Life & Pr	569½	-11½	2.6	27.7
160	110	Syndicate Capl	160	..	7.2	12.6
625	521½	Utd Assurance	567½	-2	4.8	13.3
260½	147½	Wellington	259	-5½	3.6	10.4
173½	128½	Willis Corroon	159	-1½	6.4	13.2
16	11½	Windsor	14½	.	5.2	...
178½	146½	Wren	168½	+½	9.7	13.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
659	490	3i	648	+3	1.9	37.8
65	51½	Aberdeen Emg Ec	61½	...	...	...
136½	96½	Aberdeen High Inc	136½	+1	7.1	20.3
133	84	Aberdn New Dawn	108½	+1¼	1.9	44.0
257	205½	Aberforth Smlr	256½	..	3.4	28.6
159	116	Aberforth Sm Wts	159	...	..	...
3072½	2465	Alliance	3067½	...	2.4	47.0
715	564	Anglo & O'seas	711	-3	1.6	64.0
74½	65	Aust Opps	68	...	0.5	...
67	50½	Baillie Gifford SN	53½	-¼	...	...
297½	239½	Bankers	295½	-½	2.3	48.3
118	85½	Baring Emg Eu	109½	...	...	...
607½	468½	Baring Tribune	605½	+1½	1.7	67.0
140½	114½	Br Assets	140½	+½	4.4	26.0
122½	108	Br Empire Sect	121¼	+¼	1.1	65.8
61½	52½	Brazilian	55	-¼	...	...
375½	313	Brunner	370	...	2.2	58.1
110	74½	Cairngorm Dem	88	-6	1.3	..
1800	737½	Candover	975	+2½	2.6	40.8
58½	58½	Capital Euro Gwth	58½	-½	...	...
517½	384	Chart European	516	...	1.5	...
198	168	City Merch HY	186	+2½	6.0	15.9
281	230	City Of Lon	278½	+½	3.0	38.5
388½	234	Contl Asset	388½	+3	0.6	..
77½	74½	Daraso Inv Inc	75½	..	13.7	9.7
635	530	Derby Cap	619½	-1½	...	...
139½	127½	Derby Inc	133	...	18.3	4.1
238½	170½	Dres RCM Smlr	239½	+1½	1.4	...
220½	174½	Dunedin Inc G	211¼	+¼	3.6	33.4
452	335½	Dunedin Smlr	452	+2½	2.8	38.4
224½	170	Dunedin Wwide	224½	+¼	1.1	...
60½	43	Edin Dragon	50½	+½	...	..
29½	24½	Edinburgh Inca	29½	...	...	..
519	413½	Edinburgh IT	502	.	2.9	...
105	81½	Edin Japan	90	-¼	...	...
530	424½	Edin US Tk	524	-5	0.9	..
665	527	Electra Inv	665	+3	1.6	46.9
189½	157	Eng & Scot	188½	-	2.3	49.9
29½	24½	Eur Cap	25½	...	...	...
589½	374	European Asset	589½	+3	0.8	.
70½	47½	Fidelity Asian Val	55½	+½	...	...
398	277½	Fidelity Euro Val	394½	-3	0.2	...
32½	25	Fidelity Jap Val	29½	..	...	...
171½	135½	Fidelity Spec Val	171	+1½	1.0	...
265½	217½	Finsbury 'A'	265½	...	1.8	72.9
223	173	Finsbury Gwth	218	..	2.0	61.1
155½	130	Five Arr Chile	134½	-½	1.9	80.8
18½	2½	Five Arr Wts	2½	.	...	..
647½	513½	Fleming Amer	607½	-7½	0.4	...
64	44½	Fleming Asian	49½	+½	.	...
12½	6½	Fleming Asian Wts	6½	.	...	..
64½	44½	Fleming Chinese	47½	+½	...	...
27½	14	Fleming Ch Wts	18	...	...	...
507½	401½	Fleming Claverh	495	+½	1.7	67.4
686	471	Fleming Contl	686	+2	0.5	..
134	109½	Fleming Em Mkts	130	..	0.4	.
378	271	Fleming Entp	377½	+6	1.8	58.2
411	307	Flem Grd Gth Ord	406½	+½	0.8	...
162½	152	Flem Grd Gth Pft	157½	+¼	10.3	..
132½	103	Fleming Inc Capt	126½	..	5.6	24.0
112½	105½	Fleming Ing Inc	111¼	...	11.3	10.1
350½	246½	Fleming Ing Cap	343½	.	...	.
50½	39½	Fleming Indian	46½	-¼	...	...
12½	7	Fleming In Wts	7½	...	...	..
167½	131	Fleming Japan	140	...	...	...
471	364½	Fleming Merc	471	+4	2.7	42.7
92	70½	Fleming Nat Res	88	-½	0.3	...
431	350½	Fleming Oseas	439	-½	1.3	...
199½	148½	Fleming Smlr Co	199	...	2.8	57.8
508½	371½	Fleming US Disc	504	-2½	0.2	..
208½	168	Foreign & Col	208½	+½	1.4	72.8
124½	97	F&C Inc Gwth	123	..	3.7	...
107½	88½	F&C Emg Mkts	98½	+¼	...	...
292	185	F&C Enterprise	290½	...	1.7	62.9
528	361½	F&C Eurotst	528	+2½	0.6	..
247	150½	F&C Germany	246½	+1	0.3	...
131	99½	F&C Pacific	113½	+2½	2.0	59.2
181½	144½	F&C PEP	181½	...	3.1	39.6
220	177	F&C Smaller	220	+½	1.5	64.3
179½	144½	F&C US Smlr	175½	-1	...	...
64½	60½	Franklin Inc	64½	+½	9.9	..
171	109½	Framlin Cap	170½	+½	...	...
290	133½	Frank Dual Cp	289	+½	...	...
83½	38½	Fulcrum Cap	83½	...	...	...
22½	15½	Fulcrum Inc	17	...	64.6	7.9
194½	186	Fulcrum Zero	194½	+½	...	...
335	270½	Gartmore Brit	334	+1½	3.4	...
347½	242½	Gartmore Euro	339	...	0.5	...
156½	110	Gartmore Shrd	156	...	7.5	16.1
472½	345½	G'more Smlr Cos	470½	...	1.6	69.5
86½	52½	Geared Inc Ord	86	-½	6.5	...
59	51½	Geared Inc Inc	58½	+½	9.5	...
103	59½	Gov Asn Sm Cos	88	+3½	0.8	...
92½	70½	Gov Eng Mis	85½	+1½	0.6	...
215	151½	Govett Am Smlr	208½	-2½	...	...
97½	81½	Govett High Inc	95	+½	7.3	16.5
108½	80½	Govett Oriental	97½	+6½	0.9	...
481½	379½	Govett Strategic	491½	+5½	2.0	46.5
35½	19½	Gresham House	35½	+15	1.3	...
146½	119	GT Inc Growth	144½	+½	2.9	...
180½	136½	GT Japan	146½	-½	0.3	...
156½	114½	Guns Fl Ex Inc	156	...	6.7	.
76	61	Henderson Am Cp	75	-	...	...
120½	115½	Henderson Am Inl	120½	+1	8.1	13.3
43½	29	Henderson Am Wt	42½	+½	...	...
355½	281½	Hend Elec Gen	355	+½	1.4	.
132½	101	Hend Far East	107½	+½	8.0	15.1
580	452	Hend Gmlnvr	570	...	1.7	71.5
172	151½	Hend High Inc	167½	+1½	5.0	22.8
42½	30½	Hend Jap Smlr	35½	-½	...	...
293	219	Hend Smlr	293	...	1.7	70.6
620½	495	Hend Strata	620½	+1½	0.1	...
69½	51	Hend Tl Pac	54½	+½	0.6	79.2
120½	88½	Hend Tech	117½	...	...	...
201½	135½	Herald	200½	...	0.5	...
129½	105½	High Income T	129	+½	6.6	16.2
172½	140	H Gowett Smlr	172½	+½	2.8	60.3
191½	138½	ISS	191	...	1.9	...
213½	180	Inv Capt	212	+3	3.4	32.0
97	64	Intl Biotech	67½	-2½	...	...
20	3½	Intl Biotec Wts	4½	-½	...	...
58½	38	INVESCO Asa	46	+½	1.8	56.5
217½	175½	INVESCO Eng Int	216	...	0.8	...
36½	25½	INVESCO Jap Dis	30	-½	...	...
49½	30	INVESCO Korea	34	+½	...	...
33½	23½	INVESCO Tokyo	26½	-½	...	...
107½	50½	JF Fledg Jap	92½	-½	...	...
204½	135	J Fry Euro U	200½	.	3.5	...
121½	69½	J Fry Util	121	.	5.8	14.4
89½	79½	J Fry Util Inc	89	+1	7.9	64.5
150	121½	Jupiter Ex Inc	149½	-½	6.6	18.9
43½	19½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	43½	...	...	...
105	61	Jupiter Grd Cap	102	+½	8.8	12.6
51½	44	Jupiter Grd PN	51½	...	...	...
157½	135½	Jupiter Intl Grn	155½	..	3.3	..
837½	518	Jupiter Prima	830	+12½	0.9	..
104	73½	Klnwt E Mkt	94	...	...	..
178½	164½	Klnwt End	178	...	...	...
155	118	Klnwt H Inc	161½	.	9.6	15.4
201½	88	Korea—Euro	148½	..	0.8	67.4
132	113	Latin American	116½	-¼	..	..
1287½	1077½	Law Debenture	1284½	-2½	2.8	35.7
120	111½	Life Oil Opp	116	...	...	...
158½	124½	Lloyds Sm Cap	158½	...	...	...
22	16½	Lloyds Sm Div	17½	...	30.6	4.1
177	143	Lloyds Sm Pkg	176	..	3.1	...
215½	173½	Lon St Lawrence	215½	..	3.7	33.4
416½	341½	Lowland	416½	+2½	3.5	35.7
812½	797½	M&G 2nd Dual Cap#	800	.	...	...
51½	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc#	50	...	..	1.8
101	75½	M&G Inc Geared	101	..	7.4	18.1
77½	54	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	77½	..	...	...
26½	22½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	23½	..	...	4.6
182½	150½	M&G Inc Package	182	...	4.1	32.6
80½	77½	M&G Inc Zero Div	80½	...	...	.
70½	31	M&G Rec Cap	70	...	...	...
95½	53½	M&G Rec Geared	94½	...	7.1	18.2
28	22½	M&G Rec Inc	24½	...	27.6	4.7
205	160	M&G Rec Package	204	..	3.3	39.2
114	108½	M&G Rec Zero Div	114	...	...	...
224	180½	M Currie Euro	223½	..	0.4	...
84½	64½	M Currie Japan	71½	+¼	...	...
125½	100½	M Currie Pac	106½	+½	2.3	...
358	292½	Majedie	357	...	2.5	53.8
434	355	Merchants	433	+½	4.1	29.1
175	132	Mercury Euro Pvt	174½	+½	1.9	..
94½	59½	Mercury Eur Wt	94½	...	...	...
74½	57½	Mercury World	69½	+½	1.5	76.3
822	677½	Monks Inv Tst	819½	-1½	1.5	65.4
208	180	Morg Gren Inc	207½	+½	4.3	28.7
105½	80½	Morg Wts	103½	+1½	...	...
82	70	Morg Latin Amer	73½	...	0.7	...
32½	22½	Morg Wts	26	..	...	...
142½	110½	Murray Ent	141	..	2.8	48.0
28	10	Murray Ent Wts	26	..	...	...
71	53½	Murray Emg Eco	63	..	1.1	77.7
11½	7½	Murray Em Ec Wt	9	...	...	...
534½	446	Murray Income	532½	+½	3.4	38.1
501½	431½	Murray Intl	501½	+1	3.5	33.2
211½	205½	Murray S/C DP	211½	...	...	...
395	270	Murray S/C Cap	382½	-3½	...	...
64½	58	Murray S/C Inc	59	+½	27.5	4.4
5150	4350	Murray S/C Uts	5125	...	3.0	40.5
434½	340	Murray Small	420	+2	1.6	54.1
408½	378½	Murray Ventr	394½	.	4.8	23.8
309	271½	Natwest Ent	288½	...	2.2	44.5
5½	2½	Newmarket	2½	...	..	-
56½	34½	Pacific Assets	43½	+¼	1.1	..
132½	83	Perpetual Euro	132	+¼	0.4	...
156½	125	Perp Inc Gth	145½	-½	3.3	43.5
37	27½	Perpetual Jap	30½	...	...	...
417½	322½	Perpl Uk Sm Co	417½	+1	2.1	53.3
£200½	£168	Personal Assets	£199	..	1.5	..
154½	138½	Prolific Inc	154	..	3.5	33.0
368½	270	RIT Cap Ptnr	367½	...	0.6	.
558½	516½	Robeco	558	-½	2.0	...
566	524	Rolinco	565½	-½	0.8	...
59½	37½	Schrod Asia Pac	45½	+¼	1.4	..
73	56½	Schrod Emg Cat	64½	+¼	...	...
165½	142	Schrod Inc Gwth	161	-½	3.6	28.9
61½	48	Schrod Jap Gwth	50½	...	...	...
282½	152	Schrod Korea	176	...	...	...
87½	43½	Schrod Split Cap	87	+3½	...	...
135	114½	Schrod Split Inc	131	..	8.3	15.4
160	154½	Schrod Split Zero	156½	...	...	...
177½	142	Schrod UK Gwth	177	+½	2.4	47.9
187½	165½	Schrod Ventr Intl	186½	...	1.2	...
383	311	Scot	381½	+½	2.0	60.7
233	183½	Scot American	228½	+¼	3.0	39.6
144½	91½	Scot Asian	125	..	...	...
139	110½	Scot Eastern	138½	.	1.8	54.1
396½	316½	Scot Mtge	394	...	1.7	...
105½	100½	Scot Natl Tst	105½	...	11.8	10.8
142½	119½	Scot Value	141½	+¼	1.8	29.5
2732½	2168½	Second Allnce	2732½	+1½	2.5	51.1
133½	112½	Secs Tst of Scot	132½	+½	3.7	.
204½	149½	Shires Smlr	203½	+2½	3.8	32.1
177	133½	Smaller Cos	176½	...	2.3	63.2
395	353	St Andrew Inv	392½	+1	3.2	38.4
602	484	Temple Bar	589½	+3	4.1	29.9
103	82½	Throgmorton	102½	+¼	2.9	45.3
128½	102½	Tyndon Emg Mkt	114	...	1.2	66.6
263½	167½	TR Euro Growth	262½	..	0.4	...
50½	44½	TR Property	50	+¼	2.6	35.1
412½	374	TR Tech Inv#	400	.	11.9	32.0
364	273	Tudley Trust	355½	...	1.3	...
165	146½	Undervalued Ast	164½	+½	1.8	..
167	152	Value Inc Tst	164	...	3.7	...
137½	102½	Value Real	135	+½	0.8	67.7
54½	40½	Warrants & Val	54½	...	...	...
108½	87½	Wigmore	107	...	0.8	...
390	310½	Witan	389½	+1	2.2	48.1
74½	68½	Yeoman Inc	70	...	29.6	4.5

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LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
29½	11	ABI Leis#	13½			15.1
543½	405½	Airtours	523½	-2½	1.6	26.3
33	23½	Ald Leis	32½	...	3.9	10.2
21	16	Anna Leis	20½	+½	...	
157½	115	BS Group	146½	-3½	4.3	
130	110	Baldwin	125	...	4.0	10.2
120	82	Bluebird Toys	115½	...	10.3	10.6
800	625	Boosey Hawkes	630	-5	2.0	25.1
35½	27½	Bundeco	35	...	7.3	9.0
159½	95	Capital Corpn	104½	-½	6.1	
95	55	Cliveden	95	...	2.6	21.6
108½	70½	Clubhaus	93½	-1	..	24.8
305	218	ENIC	228½	+6	0.3	
318	223	Eurocamp	300	...	5.2	12.6
104	67	Euro Disney	92½			
139½	120½	Euro Leisure	139	...	3.8	8.8
173½	100	First Choice	154	...	2.3	53.6
397	269½	First Leisure	397	+4½	2.8	22.6
159½	110½	Friendly Hotels	155½	...	4.7	13.3
1172	837	Granada	1104	+3½	1.6	22.7
51½	36½	Hi-Tec Sports	49	...	5.1	9.4
289	207½	Holmes Place	274½	...	1.4	32.9
282½	165½	Hornby	235	...	3.5	11.5
370	308	Hozelock	356	+1½	4.0	20.2
163½	148	Jarvis Hotels	182	...	3.1	11.7
569½	351½	Jurys Hotel	569½	+4	1.4	27.3
35	24½	Kunick	31	...	3.1	18.0
370	250	Ladbroke	345	-2	3.6	25.2
326½	163½	London Clubs	204	-1½	5.1	14.7
242½	182½	Macdonald Htls	233½	...	2.5	17.5
161½	123½	Man Utd	146	+1	1.4	23.4
59½	34½	Mandarin Orntl	42½	+½	5.1	
620½	418½	Millennium & Cop	576	...	1.9	22.2
1½	0½	Mulvell Hldgs				
102½	77½	Newcastle Utd	87½	...	2.2	9.4
600	400½	Northcent	533½	+2	1.9	32.7
76½	52½	Prism Leisure	67½	...	12.7	4.6
27	19½	Queensborough	25	...	2.0	9.6
33	12½	Queens Moat	32	...		7.0
421	283½	Rank Grp	358	-3½	6.3	13.9
49	38½	Regal Hotel	44	...	3.6	
84½	50½	Ryan Hotels	83½	...	2.9	
1900	1175	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1557½	...	1.7	25.5
51½	27½	Sheffield United	38	+½		
252½	232½	Sinclair (Wm)	245½	...	4.6	11.9
80	63½	Southampton	75	...	1.7	..
136½	91	Stakis	136	...	2.3	20.7
290½	250½	Stanley Leisure	290	+2½	1.8	20.5
10	4	Tandem	8½	...		
346	346	Tanjong#	346	...	1.4	
204½	157	Thistle Hotels	201	-2	2.6	16.5
200	181	Thomson Travel	193½	...	1.8	23.5
76½	59½	Tottenham Hot	68	-1	1.8	18.0
201½	135½	Vardon	180½	...	1.7	21.8
405	302½	Wembley	405	+2½	0.9	10.1
162½	120	Zetters Gp	145	...	9.1	8.4

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
415	324	Abbott Mead	412½	...	2.0	
179½	145½	Adscene	176½	...	6.0	18.5
98	64½	Aegis Gp	98	+2½	0.7	26.9
154	70	Aspen Gp	94	...	3.3	...
195	152½	Atlantic Telecom	177½	...		
79½	50½	BBB Design#	79½	...		
225	185	Bartow Index	205	...	6.2	23.5
3½	1½	Birdale	2½	...		
400	320	Black (A&C)	400	...	4.5	15.6
370½	257½	Border TV	348½	+1½	2.5	26.8
470	410	Bristol	470	...	4.3	16.1
289½	129½	Britt Allcroft	280	...	0.8	40.3
594	213	BSkyB	433	+½	1.7	27.6
269½	163½	CIA Grp	257½	...	1.3	27.8
747½	497	Capital Radio	677½	-6½	2.6	21.0
561	408	Carlton Comms	517	+8	3.2	15.3
315	145	Character Gp	308½	...	1.8	20.5
56½	48	Chime Comms	55	...	4.3	15.0
777½	602½	Chrysalis	775	...	0.4	..
92½	77	City of Lon	92½	...	8.3	12.0
137	88	Cordiant Comms	128	-1	0.9	..
184	143½	Creston Pub	181½	-1	4.1	..
2668½	2084½	Daily Mail	2668½	+37½	1.1	31.2
2734½	2000	Daily Mail 'A'	2734½	+69½	1.1	31.9
206½	129½	Dialog	175	...		
267	203	Dorling Kindr	265½	...	2.1	73.4
450	285½	Dudley Jenkins	438	...	1.5	31.4
1286	905	EMAP	1285½	+13	1.3	29.7
685	420	EMI	522½	-19½	3.1	72.3
1117½	901½	Elsevier	979½	+11½	2.7	74.6
2247½	1495	Euromoney Pb	2162½	+112½	3.1	21.8
68½	50½	Flextech	68½	...	1.3	12.2
555	468	Flextech	539	-2½		
220½	155½	GWR Gp	220	+1½	1.6	41.7
395	227½	Gearhouse Group	227½	...	4.0	11.4
55½	34½	Goodhead	50½	...	1.2	16.6
525	290	HIT Entert	517½	...	0.3	65.4
287½	282½	Haynes Pub	282½	...	5.0	11.8
14½	9½	Highbury Hse	13½	-½		
280	204	Hodder H'line	267½	+2½	3.4	17.0
580	400	Home Counties	560	...	1.3	34.9
530	365	IBC	528	...	2.5	17.4
90	70½	ITE Group	90	+2½		
30½	18½	Incepta	30	+½	1.5	13.2
397½	327½	Independent	380	+10	2.2	25.2
58½	40½	Int Public Rel	55½	+½	3.7	11.6
162	122	Telecurope	123½	...	4.8	9.0
235½	195½	Johnston Press	228½	...	1.6	17.8
358½	328	LLP Group	357½	+19	1.6	29.1
58½	30	Lopex	57	+1½	3.2	12.2
472½	305	Maiden	467½	...	1.6	25.8
39½	23½	MediaKey	27½	...	5.5	10.4
1275	940	Metal Bulletin	1275	...	2.3	32.1
222½	170	Miller Gpt	218	+6½	2.9	16.1
1190	713	Mice Grp	1122½	-7½	1.8	23.7
435½	333	News Corp	376½	-9½	0.3	16.6
377	283½	News Corp Pref	334	-6½	0.9	
325½	252½	Newsquest	325½	+1	2.1	18.3
15½	11½	Osprey Comms	13			
1073	765	Pearson	1063	+3	2.3	30.4
55½	34½	Phonelink	45	+5		
957½	867½	Portsmth Sund	955	+5	2.0	19.6
106	51½	Quarto	106	+7½	5.3	14.5
730	449½	Reed Intl	581	+5	3.1	28.4
745	509½	Reuters	699	-4	2.3	35.1
185	100½	Saatchi	173½	-1½	0.8	
785	651	Scot Media	785	+18½	3.6	17.4
536	375	Scot Radio	523½	...	2.4	18.3
13½	6½	Sleepy Kids	10½	-1	1.0	
550	448	Southnews	550	+5	2.2	
25½	17½	Sterling Pub	24	...		5.4
132	85½	Taylor Nelson	132	+5	1.0	40.9
267	204	Televison Cp	252	-5½	1.9	28.0
1930	1549½	Thomson Corp	1802½	-22½	2.6	37.9
573	483½	Trinity	557½	-2½	3.0	17.7
345	206	Ulster TV	221	...	3.2	20.5
894	630	United News	853	-1	2.8	18.6
115½	74	VCI	85	...	11.6	6.3
127½	75½	VTR	120	-2½	4.9	8.6
395	240	WPP	385	+5	0.6	24.4
203½	123½	Wilmington	199½	+½	0.8	43.5

MINING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3440¾	2290¾	Ang Am Coal	3440¾	+21½	4.8	8.0
3553½	1975	Ang Am	2984½	-25	2.8	..
3268¾	2068¾	Anglo Am Gold	3187½	+68¾	4.4	..
971½	643½	Anglo Am Plat	818½	-18½	3.2	22.1
3362½	3040½	Anglogold	3368¾	+65	8.3	15.8
22½	14½	Anglo Pac Gp	15			
31½	22	Arcon Intl	26			
645½	411½	Ashanti	629	-½	1.9	30.6
68½	44	Asbico	44	-2	3.5	
112	47	Avocet▲	59½			
187½	133½	Billiton	161	-3	3.8	13.2
34½	31½	Bisichi	32	...	3.6	10.5
20½	14½	Bougainville	15½	+1		
299½	217	Central Pacific	278½	+33½		
50	21½	Cons Murchison	48	-½	..	1.4
1609½	1062½	De Beers	1418½	-16½	4.1	8.2
462½	337½	Driefontein	415½	-5½	3.0	13.2
222½	88	Durban	186½	-3½		
92½	57½	E Rand Gold	90½	-2½	18.7	5.4
18½	10½	E Rand Prop	15	...		25.6
283	128½	Eandsrand	279	-4	6.2	16.0
273½	219½	Eng China Clt	257½	...	6.3	12.0
168½	92	Exsider	132½	-3½	11.8	
385½	92	FS Cons	379	-6½	10.0	10.0
71½	17	FS Dev	36	-½		
1103½	734½	GFSA	1016½	-9½	2.7	30.4
148½	85½	Gencor	139½	+3½	2.8	8.9
145½	98½	Gold Fields Prop	120½	-6½	6.5	12.8
41	14½	Greenwich R 'A'	36½	-1½		
356½	112½	Harmony	317½	+4½	..	10.0
793½	443½	Impala Plat	737½	+3½	2.3	14.6
13½	9½	Kenosam Res	10½			
33½	14	Kidston	21½	-1½		
369	239½	Lonrho	309	-4	7.7	14.1
11½	6½	Messina	6½	-½		
42	29	MIM	34½	+½	2.8	
1175	900	Minorco	1087½	-68½	3.6	
105	65	Monteagle	97	...	5.0	
79½	53	Normandy	60½	+2½	3.8	13.1
177½	146½	North	149½	...	3.4	21.2
60	22½	Petaling Tin	32½	...	1.5	
111	64½	RGC	73½	-1½	5.3	3.9
142½	80	RJB	136½	+4	18.3	1.7
29½	22½	Rackwood	24½	...	16.8	5.3
196½	77½	Randfontein	165½	-3½	3.2	19.2
121½	77½	Reunion Mng	85	+½		
898	641	Rio Tinto	814	-3	3.9	15.3
871	666½	Rio Tinto Ltd	778	-2	3.5	19.1
8½	4	St Barbara	5½			
191	126	St Helena	162½	-3	30.0	2.3
192½	138½	Sons Gwalia	180	+6½	5.5	12.9
130½	90½	Strern Pacific	109½	+7½		
1328¾	793½	Southvaal	1312½	-12½	9.0	11.1
228½	177½	WMC	199	+1½	2.3	25.2
27	12	Wankie Col Z	14½		4.7	
67½	40½	Victor Hall	41½			
443	381½	Watts Blake	398	...	5.6	11.9
1759¾	975	Western Deep	1718½	-40½	4.7	
149	109½	Zambia Copper	120½	-6½		

OIL & GAS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
212	155½	Abbot Group	205½	...	1.6	26.3
32½	19½	Alliance Res#	32½	...		
64½	54	Amerex	55½			
77	58½	Aus Oil & Gas	60	-1½	2.6	19.4
27½	9½	Aviva Pet	9½			
430	298½	Br Borneo	389	-1	0.9	69.7
345	265	BG	345	+6	2.9	32.8
972	708½	Br Petroleum	913	-15	3.1	23.5
1½	0½	Bula Resources	1			
1340	895	Burmah Castrl	1253	-27	3.2	18.4
496½	290½	Cairn Energy	328½	+7	..	59.4
119	89	Centrica	100	-½		
14½	9½	Copica Res	9½			
22½	19½	Dana Pet	21½			
72½	41½	Dragon Oil	48	-5		
28½	19	Eoin Oil & Gs	23½	..	1.6	17.0
10	5½	Emerald Energy	6½	-½		
697	510	Enterprise	583	+5	3.7	30.5
14½	10	Fortune	10½	-½		
300½	235½	Hardy Oil	276	+1	0.5	57.0
47½	31½	JKX Oil & Gas	32			
398½	300½	KBC Adv Tech	397½	...	1.0	36.1
305	240	LASMO	289	-1	0.8	77.5
42½	35½	Lasmo Units	39	...	21.6	
83	56½	Monument	62½	-½	..	22.3
3118¾	2612½	Norsk Hydro	2959¾	+53½	2.1	
133½	97	Oil Search	120	-3½		
58½	39½	Petrocon	43½	-½		
54½	37	Premier	48½	+½	1.6	10.2
58	29½	Pittencrieff Re	32½			
422½	331	Ranger	409½	+18	4.8	7.2
3616¾	3031½	Royal Dtch Pt	3471¾	-31½	2.8	25.5
5143¾	3996¾	Schlumberger	4818¾	-121½	1.0	
499½	385	Shell	448½	-6	3.2	25.2
370½	363½	SOCO Intl	278½			
8187½	5843½	Total	7643½	-150	1.8	..
332½	242½	XCL	247½	...		

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
134	87½	Aberdeen Asset	130	...	3.9	48.5
775	467	AMVESCAP	673½	-11½	1.0	30.9
338	120½	BWD	330	+15	4.3	19.8
55½	47½	Berry Bch Nbl	49½	...	7.6	12.3
294	240	Biotech Inv	289½	-1		
369½	245½	Brewin Dolphin	359½	+3½	3.2	18.0
930	725	Caledonia	916	-1½	2.6	24.4
4300	2800	Camellia	4150	...	1.0	17.5
683	358½	Cattles	640	-1	1.9	32.0
57½	37½	Chrisbe	56½	...	2.2	18.5
806½	526½	Close Bros	805½	+4	2.0	23.4
612	433	EFM	606½	...	5.2	14.6
32½	20	Exco	22½	...	4.2	
42½	19½	Fishers Intl	37½	...	2.2	21.1
219½	197	Friends Ivory Sime	216	-2	4.3	
409	332	Gerrard	404	...	5.0	18.1
297½	247½	Hampros	297	+2	3.2	28.5
1705	1425	Henderson	1625	...	3.6	22.4
259½	148½	Hitachi Credt	259½	+18	2.7	..
185	145	Investment Co.	182½	...	2.4	
177½	134½	Jardine Strat	135½	+1	6.6	10.2
164½	117½	Johnson Fry	156	...	3.2	
630	570	Leopold J	615	...	4.1	27.0
619½	482½	Liberty Intl	596½	-1	3.7	26.1
476½	343½	Lon Forfaiting	381½	-12	4.0	12.7
260½	168½	London Pacific	249½	...	7.1	8.8
160	110½	Lon Scot Bk	148½	...	2.9	26.3
263½	232½	Man ED & F	252	+7	5.5	10.1
1945	1407½	M & G	1855	...	2.9	27.7
253	182½	Paragon	250	...	1.4	9.8
4350	2682½	Perpetual	4140	-12½	2.1	25.4
1098	786	Provident	1000	+54½	2.5	27.7
640	400	Rathbone Bs	640	+5	2.7	25.7
66	54½	Rea Brothers	60	...	2.0	12.8
64	49½	Retland Tst	63	-½	3.4	14.2
107½	77	SEC Group	79	+1	8.1	6.2
392	317½	S & U	357	...	6.9	
2025	1153½	Schroders▼	1890	-10	1.0	32.4
1775	1016½	Schroders NV▼	1656	-78	1.2	28.4
780	610	Secure Tst	780	...	3.7	15.8
185½	136½	Singer & Friedl	173½	...	3.9	12.6
52½	48½	Towry Law	62½	+1		
9½	3½	Trio Hldgs	7½			
81½	61½	Union	79			
61½	46½	Versailles Gp	59½	+1	0.9	35.7
437½	397½	Wintrust	437½	...	4.1	17.7

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	42	Brit Biotech	55½	+1½	...	...
750	600	Cantab Pharms	690			
387½	272½	Celltech	357½	+2½	...	...
356½	320	Chiroscience	326½	+9	...	...
201	75	Core Group	75			
205	153	Cortecs	154	-2		
1983	1330	Glaxo Well	1718	+13	2.3	37.3
135	75	ML Laboratories	111	+11½		
185	140	Medeva	178	-½	3.1	8.3
280	165	Oxford Molecular	228½			
310	265	Peptide Thera	304			
114½	47½	Phytopharm	101			
513½	194½	Powderject	490	+12		
89½	42	Proteus Intl▲	51½	+2½		
72	59	Ransom (Wm)	66½	...	4.8	13.4
181½	124½	Quadrant Health	153	-2		
394½	260	Scotia	325			
446½	285½	Shire Pharms	408	+2		
103½	47½	SkyePharma	88½	-½		
688	618	SmithKline	669	+16	1.6	33.9
223	145	Therp Am Inc	153½	-1½		
652½	404	Vanguard	404	-5		
182	45½	Vanguard Wts	66½	+½		
245	145	Xenova	185			
2850	2114	Zeneca	2530	-10	1.9	32.9

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
94	82	AG Holdings	84	...	9.3	12.4
645	520	API	645	...	2.5	17.3
124½	68½	Apio Holo	124½	+½		
253½	143½	Argo Wiggins	251½	+6½	3.2	13.5
468½	438½	Bemrose	449½	+2	4.5	11.9
182½	144½	Blagden	181½	+2½	2.0	11.7
3571¾	2578¾	Bowater Inc	3309½	-21½		
313½	233½	Boxmore Intl	381½	...	1.4	18.7
527	435	Br Polythene	485	...	5.2	
327½	219½	Bunzl	323	+10½	2.1	18.2
168½	118½	Capital Indst	164	-1	4.6	18.9
261½	235½	Cropper (James)	229	...	2.6	8.2
399	366½	De La Rue	287½	+1½	10.4	7.5
274½	252½	Dolphin Pack	264½	...	3.9	12.4
105	70	Ferguson Intl	93½	...	6.0	
197½	145½	Finlux	180½	...	4.0	
90½	56½	Inveresk	89	+3½	8.1	13.2
229½	185½	Jarvis Porter	209½	-½	4.8	
21	17½	LIBERtrica	17½	...	3.8	7.5
419	384	Low & Bonar	419	+4	4.0	14.1
25½	18½	Lowe (Robert)	21½	-½	2.4	7.8
80½	65½	MY Holdings	80½	...	4.3	10.8
177½	132½	Macfarlane	161½	...	3.5	13.6
347½	213½	Photobition	326½	-7	0.6	54.1
177½	140½	Plysu	177½	...	5.8	13.5
34	25	Porter Chadbrn	33	-½	3.0	10.5
314½	229	REXAM	314½	+7	5.1	12.8
532½	485	St Ives Grp	505½	+20½	3.0	15.1
410	227½	Sappi	359½	+14	2.3	
68½	20	Security & General	54½			
122½	92½	Shiloh	115	...	2.7	13.1
253½	185½	Smith David	250	+½	4.0	15.5
240	156	Smurfit (Jeff)	218½	+½	2.0	
168	105	Somic	114	...	3.4	12.5
150	133½	Tinsley Robor	150	+1	2.5	16.7
43½	16	Wace	38½			
285½	247½	Waddington	279	+½	4.8	12.3
347½	268	Watmough	347	...	3.8	17.8
312½	223	Wyndeham	312½	+10	2.2	19.0

PROPERTY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116½	91	Allied Lon	103	-1	4.9	7.5
195	155½	Asda	191	...	2.8	25.3
35½	28½	Ashtpaw Grp	35			
172½	135½	Ashtenne Hldgst	171½	...	3.6	
278½	243½	Beachtrust	267½	...	2.2	25.9
288½	253½	Brixton	271½	+1	5.1	19.8
177½	149	Baildy	173½	...	8.3	11.6
5½	3	Bolton Gp	3½			
64	53½	Bourne End	62	...	2.4	
322½	276½	Bradford	288½	-3	3.8	20.1
825	645	Br Land	704	-1	1.5	40.2
255	213	Brotont	238	-1	4.9	19.3
132	100	Burford	119½	-1	2.4	41.1
147	132	CLS Hldgs	142½	...	5.0	17.0
318½	246½	Cap & Regnl	288	+1½	1.5	28.1
460	407½	Cap Shop Ctrs	435	-5	2.7	28.4
343½	263½	Cardiff Prop	343½	...	1.1	31.5
15	9½	Carlisle	13½	...		56.7
13½	8½	Cathay Intl	9½			
418½	343½	Chelsfield	359	-½	1.1	42.1
687½	590	Chesterfield	610	...	2.8	
37	23	Chesterton Inl	24	-½		
53½	32½	City Site Ests	34½	...		27.6
107	90	Cleveland Tst	92½	...	8.2	11.5
99½	82½	CNC Propst	89½	...	4.6	9.3
247½	185½	Compco	246	-1½	2.3	20.5
1705	1605	Daejan	1705	...	3.0	16.3
21	13½	Dares Estates	13½	-1½		
126½	95½	Debenham Tewson	122½	...	2.9	14.4
109½	69½	Delancey Ests	102½	...	1.9	20.9
229½	192½	Dencora	229	...	2.7	13.9
598	562½	Derwent Hldgst	579	...	1.4	40.0
355	283½	Development Sec	326½	...	1.2	
256	172½	Edge Properties	256	+2½	..	27.4
430	410	Estates Agency	425	...	5.4	19.3
77½	75½	Estates Gen	77	...	1.3	19.9
166½	139½	Evans Of Leeds	166½	+2	2.6	19.4
42½	36½	Fletcher King	40½	...	6.2	13.4
71½	61½	Folkes Group	70	...	3.7	6.8
71½	57½	Folkes Group nvt	70	...	3.7	6.8
540	461	Frogmore	512½	-3	4.9	13.4
19	14½	Golden Land Inv	16			
370	322	Grainger	355	...	2.6	
296	237½	Gr Portland	269	-1	4.2	29.6
197½	159	Grantchester	197½	+1	0.9	57.6
235	214½	Greycoat	235	+1½	0.8	
147½	104½	Hambro Cntyw	136	+5	2.6	8.8
537½	465½	Hammerson	528	-1½	2.8	31.1
33½	25½	Hampton Trust	28			
655	555	Helical Bar	655	+2½	2.0	18.0
50	44½	Hemingway	45	...	1.7	
130½	69½	HK Land	80½	+½	9.2	
340	200	Jermyn▼	336½	...	2.2	
179½	94	LSH	178½	-1	3.2	
113½	84½	Lands Impl	107½	...	5.5	
1190	337½	Land Sec	1003	-4	3.6	26.5
39½	31	Lon & Assoc	34½	...	3.3	14.0
139½	118½	Lon Merch Sec	139½	+1½	4.4	12.8
650	503½	MEPC	590	+7	3.6	26.8
119½	99½	MWB Group	114	...	4.1	
152	132	McKay Secs	151	...	3.6	21.3
89½	65½	McNeile Mkr	87½	...	3.2	7.9
365	270	Milner Est	365	...	2.4	17.5
245½	202½	Minerva	236	+½	0.9	
35½	25	Moorfield Est	35	...	3.0	39.5
1900	1681½	Mountview	1700	...	3.1	11.9
169	156½	Muckow (A&J)	161½	...	5.7	17.6
37	31	OEM	36½	...		72.1
74½	52½	ORB	65	...		28.3
41½	31½	Olives Prop	41	...	1.9	25.2
717½	635	Peel	715	...	1.4	
329½	277	Pillar Prop	329	...	2.0	47.8
13½	7½	Probus Estates	9½			
204½	189	Quintain	196½	...	2.2	32.8
28½	24	Ragian	26	...	5.8	10.3
38½	26	Regalian	29½	+½	4.6	14.5
202½	157½	Rugby Est	179	-1	1.8	18.1
81½	67½	St Modwen Prp	77	...	4.9	9.4
73	59	Saville Gdn	71	...	5.3	26.9
145	111½	Savills	144½	...	3.2	10.1
107½	92	Scot Met	107½	+½	3.6	18.9
244	217	Shaftesbury	244	+2	1.2	56.9
414½	342½	Slough Estates	390	+1	2.7	26.2
287½	242½	Smart (J)	285	+2½	4.3	10.6
108½	93	TBI	108½	...	2.3	35.5
196½	176½	Tops Ests	195	...	1.7	42.2
118	102	Town Centre	111½	...	4.4	13.9
202½	149½	Trafford Park	201	+5	2.5	21.8
103½	87½	UK Land	98½	...	3.8	13.4
278½	251½	Warner	271½	...	5.9	19.0
263	255	Warnford	263	+3	3.8	
110½	94½	Wates▲	97½	...		44.9
450½	345½	Workspace Grp	443½	...	4.4	18.3

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	173	ASDA Group	186	+1½	2.1	17.5
78½	56	Budgens	78	...	2.3	15.9
80½	55½	Dairy Farm Intl	71½	+½	5.1	
212½	157	Fargate	186	...	2.4	13.4
43½	35½	Fitzwilton	41½	...	5.9	
184	95	Fyffes	171½	...	1.2	20.1
2637½	1995	Greggs	2637½	...	1.8	21.8
267	119	Iceland Group	257	+6½	2.6	17.4
421½	282	Kwik Save	405	...	6.2	14.6
282	227½	Morrison (W)	281½	+1½	0.9	22.6
89	38	Park Foods	63	...	5.9	18.3
402	330	Safeway	393	+12½	4.6	16.1
567	370	Sainsbury Jt	497	-3½	3.5	18.7
374½	207½	Somerfield	374	+12½	3.5	12.6
285½	194½	T & S Stores	285	+4½	3.7	15.3
620	485	Tesco	559	-13	3.6	23.8
293½	256½	Thorntons	268	...	5.8	21.2
600	505	Watson & Philip	598½	+1½	3.9	16.7

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	230½	Alexon	259½	+1	...	10.7
266	192½	Allders	330½	...	4.3	11.2
180	87½	Allied Carpets	89½	-½	10.9	6.9
506	361½	Arcadia Group	471	+4	2.8	16.7
683	390	Argos	647½	-½	3.6	20.9
41½	19½	Ashley (Laura)	34	+2½	...	
216½	164½	Austin Reed	214	-½	4.5	12.3
172½	150½	Beale	165½	-2	3.6	11.4
193½	157	Beattie (J)	188	-½	8.5	12.3
155½	119½	Bentalls	147½	...	3.3	7.4
498½	336½	Blacks Leis	392½	+2½	1.8	
146	109	Body Shop	130½	-½	6.4	11.1
900	602	Boots	958	+5	2.7	22.2
52½	30½	Brown & Jackson	49	+4	...	13.2
460	389	Brown (N)	377½	...	2.5	19.3
505	327½	Carpetright	331	+1	7.9	11.0
394	227	Christies Intl	388	...	1.7	30.1
432½	398	Church	415	...	5.1	11.6
138½	95½	Clinton Cards	138½	+1	2.7	14.6
272½	189½	Country Gdns	241½	+1½	1.8	17.5
432½	332½	Courts Furnish	390	...	1.2	16.8
587½	250	DFS Furniture	252½	+1	6.5	18.2
433	339½	Debenhams	399½	+3	1.2	22.1
608	459	Dixons Gp	583½	-½	2.4	17.5
90½	45½	Elec Boutique	88	+1		
4½	3	ERA Gp	4½			
70½	45½	Essex Furnt	47½	...	10.1	10.9
181	145	Falkland Isls	179½	+6	..	19.5
218½	162½	Fine Art Dev	210½	...	7.2	
356½	203½	Fired Earth	347½	-7½	1.3	21.5
567½	445½	Flying Flw Uk	545	+½	1.7	
137½	95½	Foxmdert	131½	...	3.2	11.1
465	355	French Conn	430	...	8.9	15.2
45½	34½	Gieves	38½	+1	3.6	24.8
320	217½	Goldsmiths Gp	317½	+2½	3.2	15.3
147	125½	Grampian Hldg	145½	-1	6.4	
915	700	GUS	886½	-18½	2.7	32.8
297½	220½	Hamleys	268½	-5½	5.1	12.1
116½	75	Hampden Grp	104½	...	3.5	18.1
343½	288½	Harveys Furn	297½	-2½	2.9	30.8
221½	144½	Hse of Fraser	191½	+1	3.8	21.2
177½	117½	Hughes (TJ)	181½	+1½	2.8	
823½	489	JJB Sports	830	+5	1.6	28.6
1201	709½	Kingfisher	1090	+6	2.6	19.8
355	250	Liberty	275	...	1.2	
44½	25½	Lowe	41			
141	79	MFI	79½	-½	7.7	8.6
654	488	Marks Spencer	582	-1	3.1	19.6
57	35½	Merchant Retail	51	-½	1.2	
291½	216½	Mss Bwst	257½	-1½	2.9	18.5
860	474	Next	540	-5	4.3	13.9
33½	24½	Oliver (G)	26	+1		
512½	382½	Ottakar Intl	512½	+1½	4.3	16.4
65	40½	Partners	49½	...	1.5	7.5
88½	78½	Partridge Fine	81½	...	7.7	7.1
29½	25½	QS Hldgs	27½			
320	257	Roseby	287	...	5.5	11.1
107½	85½	Save Group	105½	...	8.7	
64	46½	Sears	62	+½	0.7	
47½	28	Signet Group	47½	+1½		10.4
587½	389½	Smith WH	580	-½	3.4	
1305	1050	Sotheby	1305	+19	1.9	
272	216	Storehouse	262½	+6½	4.4	12.0
92	58	Stylo	64½	+1	8.7	
221½	140½	Thorn	203½	+2	8.2	11.2
127½	69½	Tie Rack	75	+2	3.4	
3½	2½	Upton & South	2½			
356½	261½	Wickes	341½	...	8.7	56.6
373½	280½	Wyevale	340	...	2.5	21.8

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
743½	535	AEA Tech	740	...	1.5	35.2
359	275	Abacus Recruit	325	...	8.6	22.3
205½	126½	Accor	128½	-½		
226½	152½	Aggregate	211	...	2.2	20.3
116	68	Alpha Airport	116	+2½	5.6	
53	32½	Alphameric	38½	-½	..	18.7
79	47	Astle Gp	73½			
533½	362½	Atkins WS	485	...	1.9	28.6
214½	160	BNB Test	187½	...	4.8	11.9
790	597½	BPP	782½	+25	2.5	27.8
783½	637½	BTG	699	+15	0.2	
48	17½	Br Thornton	43½	-1½		
124½	79½	Brooks Service	122½	-1	4.1	13.2
957½	588½	Business Post	950½	...	1.5	40.8
3192½	1517½	CMG	3192½	+95	0.1	
469	335	CRT Grp	437½	+1½	1.2	69.9
972½	812½	Caird Grp	935	...	1.6	11.7
551½	311½	Capita Group	532	+1½	0.5	
12½	6½	Charnex	12½	+1	2.0	15.5
257	212½	Corp Services	236	-1½	3.1	17.3
32	21½	Coutts Consig	32	+4½	0.4	
649	317½	DCS Grp	645½	+44½	0.4	43.2
352½	235	Danka Bs Sys	273½	-14	1.4	13.4
458½	302	Davis Service	458½	+2	3.1	25.2
830	670	Delphi	725	-5	1.2	28.5
1095	682½	Diagonal	1082½	-7½	0.3	
27½	19½	Eurocopy	24½	-½	12.5	4.0
85	51½	EW Facil	84	+1½	3.8	15.5
100	51	El Data Pic	100	+10½	2.8	17.4
1575	927½	FI Group	1557½	...	0.5	
539	403	Gardiem Tt	539	+6		
455	392	Harvey Nash	422½	...	1.4	31.8
1155	773	Hays	1102	+7	1.1	38.3
58	51½	High-Pontfoid	55			
324½	239½	Hogg Robson	324½	+6	3.9	15.1
1257½	515	IBA Hldgs	697½	+7½	0.6	65.3
330	232½	Johnson Clean	313½	...	5.8	12.0
53½	40½	Kalamazoo	53½	...	0.9	
895	570	Kewill Sys	865	...	1.4	20.7
24½	13½	Lane-Scan	19½			
561	375½	Lavendon	534	-5	0.9	34.7
1877½	1147½	Logica	1800	...	0.7	51.7
806½	505	Lorien	779½	...	1.2	48.5
227½	120½	Lynx Group	218½	+½	1.2	27.8
94½	42½	MDIS	94½	+½		
1327½	772½	MMT Comp	1290	...	1.2	33.9
150½	108½	MR Group	150½	+7	3.3	19.9
565	330	Macro 4	500	...	8.4	14.4
342½	142½	Marlborough Int	315	...		57.1
79½	52½	McInerney Abbey	79	...	1.0	23.7
721	470	Micro Focus	652½	-2½	..	41.1
125	55	Microgen	125	...	5.0	16.7
3620	1825	Misys	3380	-37	0.5	56.5
300½	220½	MITIE Gp	286½	...	1.0	31.4
53½	51½	Moss Group	53½	...	3.7	12.1
57½	41½	Oasis	57½	+½	3.6	
780	635	PSD	707½	+5	1.5	27.3
860	635	Parity	860	+31	0.8	41.1
395	240	Pegasus	268½	-28½	2.6	12.6
242½	145	Penna	217½	...	1.3	11.1
302	151	Photo-Me	302	+5½	2.3	29.1
54½	35	Proudfoot	53½	-½	7.2	12.9
247½	165	RCO	238½	+2½	8.4	30.8
332	235½	RPS Group	331	...	1.8	27.3
53	25½	Radius	47½	...	2.9	16.2
572½	317½	Real Time	571½	+2½	1.3	19.7
115½	79	Rebus	110	...	2.2	24.1
193	119½	Reed Executive	167½	...	2.2	9.0
190	162	Reliance Sec	187½	...	4.6	16.6
435	265	Rentokil	431½	+18½	0.9	42.8
210½	152½	Ricardo Group	210	...	3.9	26.4
576	455	Robert Walters	528½	-15	0.9	34.4
510	375	Rolfe & Nolan	377½	+2½	...	63.2
382½	297½	Roystake	385	+5	0.8	49.2
1520	825	Sage Gp	1517½	+15	0.2	59.8
157	74	Sanderson	147½	...	4.4	13.5
910	561	Select App	886½	-2	0.5	38.0
2462½	1475	Sema Gp	2432½	-22½	0.4	62.0
1310½	868	Serco Gp	1310½	+4	0.6	54.9
195½	154½	Shanks & McEwan	185½	...	2.7	23.4
915	520	Sherwd Intl	902½	...	0.7	38.0
74	44	Simon Gp	64½	-1½	1.2	17.1
61	37½	Skelchley	50	...		
300½	181½	Skillsgroup	299	+14½	1.8	27.4
125	103	Stat-Plus	117½	...	12.0	11.7
260	92	Superscape VR	259	+26		
124½	85	Torex	130	+3½	2.4	30.1
3300	2250	Tyco Intl	3300	...	0.2	
126½	88½	WSP Group	123½	+3	2.8	17.2
225	192	Warner Howard	183½	+1½	8.1	
242	176	Waste Mgt Intl	242	...		57.1
465½	332½	Waste Recyg	465½	...	0.7	42.9
248½	198	Whitehead Mann	248½	...	2.3	20.5
92½	62½	White Young Grn	86	...	5.1	13.1
500	304	Williams	440	+12	3.6	22.6

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	411½	BT	647	-1	3.7	18.7
2102½	614½	COLT Telecom	1912½	-2½	..	
765	467½	Cable Wireless	707	-9	1.7	50.2
461	264½	Cable&Wire Comms	446	-½		
780	252½	Energis	779	+40		
318	250	Euro Telecom	316½	...	1.9	28.6
197½	77½	General Cable	188			
137½	32½	Ionica Group	36	-49		
461	239½	Orange	441	-10½		
441	396½	Securicor	437	-2	0.5	56.8
115½	69½	TeleWest	107	-½		
692	298	Vodafone	653	-1½	1.8	53.8

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
440	210	Air London	426	...	2.1	24.0
357	219	All Nippon Air	229½	-2½	8.6	
518	344½	Arriva	446½	-1½	3.8	12.7
388	282½	Assoc Br Ports	357½	+½	3.1	17.5
372	284½	Autologic	385	...	2.6	
270½	166½	Avis Europe	270½	+7	1.4	39.9
680½	402½	BAA	678	+23½	2.4	30.7
674	498	Br Airways	647½	-1½	3.0	32.4
140½	90½	Clarkson (H)	132½	-3	3.8	14.7
192½	135½	Cropper Ops	192½	...	3.6	
457½	317½	Dart	457½	+24	1.8	32.4
67½	43½	Eurotunnel Uts	65	+3		
451	221½	FirstGroup	443½	+17	1.7	31.6
146	125	Fisher (James)	127	...	3.1	9.7
692	580	Forth Ports	672½	-9½	2.7	16.4
92½	60	Frontline	67½			
722½	510	Go-Ahead	722½	+21	1.5	17.3
601½	490	Goode Durrant	575½	-1	2.3	17.0
483	305½	Helphire Gp	480	-1½	0.3	
1735	740	Irish Cont	1135	...	0.5	24.2
95½	74½	Jacobs	95½	...	2.9	41.5
642½	490	Mersey Docks	613½	+1½	3.9	23.5
203	139½	NFC	191	...	3.7	28.0
1106½	676	Natl Express	1106½	+20½	1.5	24.9
817½	562½	Ocean Group	762½	-10	2.4	23.4
121½	92½	Ocean Wilson	116½			
933½	650	P & O Dfd	866	-4	4.4	18.6
116½	107½	P & O 5.5%	114½	+½	6.0	
1250	571½	Railtrack	1229½	+23½	2.3	23.4
130	98	Salvesen (C)	125½	...	5.7	18.0
50½	36	Seacon	44	...	3.6	33.4
296½	244	Seascope Shpt	275	+1½	5.7	
311½	180	Servicair	281	...	2.4	22.6
1405	765	Stagecoach	1367½	+72½	0.9	31.1
628	547½	Tibbet & Britn	601	...	3.6	15.7
315½	251	TDG	308½	...	6.8	20.1
116½	76½	Uglond	104½	+1	6.1	
72½	39½	Utd Carriers	45½	...	9.6	

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
967	780	Anglian	860	+3	5.2	11.8
335	285	East Surrey	292½	...	4.8	11.8
1053½	907	Hyder	964	+14½	6.9	8.1
125	115½	Hyder Cm Prf	124½	+½	7.9	
775	680	Mid Kent Hlgs	768	-5	5.1	11.3
1065	665	Severn Trent	960	-5	4.9	10.6
3635	3265	South Staffs	3595	...	3.8	14.9
1005	864½	South West	943½	+3	5.8	11.9
1043	800	Thames	967	+14½	4.6	10.8
950	658	Utd Utilities	827	+6	5.8	13.4
550	459	Wessex	462½	-½	5.1	8.9
560	446	Yorkshire	468	-½	5.2	9.1

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
225	193	Cafe Inns	216	...	1.7	16.4
29	14½	Chorion	24½	+1½		
222½	155	Dawson Hdgs	186½	...	3.2	16.7
38½	29	Firstgaps	35½	+½		
86½	50½	Megafoneka	51	...	0.5	21.0
38	21½	Memory Corp	34			
490	344	Prism Rail	427½	...	2.6	
847½	620	Ramco Egy	677½			
830	740	Southern New.	830	...	3.2	46.2
94½	84½	Southern Vectis	87½	...	3.6	13.6

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
100	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.65
102	100	Treas 14% 1998-01	100		14.00	6.94
105	102	Treas 15½% 1998	102	-	15.09	7.05
104	102	Exch 12% 1998	102	-	11.73	7.09
102	101	Treas 9½% 1999	101	-	9.36	6.99
106	104	Exch 12¼% 1999	104	-	11.75	6.92
104	103	Treas 10½% 1999	103	-	10.16	6.88
99	98	Treas 6% 1999	99		6.05	6.09
106	104	Conv 10¼% 1999	104	-	9.77	6.69
105	103	Conv 9% 2000	103		8.66	6.62
104	103	Treas 8% 2000	103		7.72	6.43
103	102	Treas 8½% 2000	102		8.26	6.68
114	112	Treas 13% 2000	112	-	11.56	6.59
109	108	Treas 10% 2001	108	-	9.19	6.43
102	101	Treas 7% 2001	102	+	6.85	6.25

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103	101	Treas 7% 2002	103	+	6.79	6.14
113	112	Treas 9¾% 2002	113	+	8.62	6.19
109	106	Treas 8% 2003	108	+	7.39	6.08
118	116	Treas 10% 2003	117		8.57	6.09
114	112	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112	-	10.20	6.43
93	90	Fund 3½% 1999-04	92	+	3.77	4.87
119	116	Conv 9½% 2004	118	+	8.03	6.01
105	101	Treas 6¾% 2004	104	+	6.47	5.93
116	113	Treas 8½% 2005	115	+	7.37	5.93
120	117	Conv 9½% 2005	119	+	7.95	5.98
130	128	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129	+	9.64	6.03
111	107	Treas 7½% 2006	110	+	6.78	5.89
112	108	Treas 7¾% 2006	111	+	6.93	5.92
107	105	Treas 8% 2002-06	106		7.50	6.22
123	121	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122	...	9.60	6.15
119	115	Treas 8½% 2007	118	+	7.19	5.83
111	106	Treas 7¼% 2007	110	+	6.57	5.82
125	121	Treas 9% 2008	124	+	7.24	5.83
118	113	Treas 8% 2009	117	+	6.80	5.83
104	99	Treas 6¼% 2010	103	+	6.03	5.82
129	124	Conv 9% 2011	128	+	7.00	5.84
131	125	Treas 9% 2012	129	+	6.93	5.86
98	93	Treas 5½% 2008-12	98	+	5.61	5.69
118	112	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	117	+	6.61	5.69

LONGS (over 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
122	116	Treas 8% 2013	121	+	6.59	5.86
125	118	Treas 8% 2015	124	+	6.45	5.79
136	127	Treas 8¾% 2017	133	+	6.53	5.80
129	121	Tr 8% 2021	128	+	6.24	5.76

UNDATED

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
60	55	War Ln 3½%	59	+	5.84	
42	38	Treas 2½%	41	+	6.01	
67	61	Consols 4%	64	+	6.20	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
198	194	Treas IL 2½% 2001	198	+	3.05	3.40
196	192	Treas IL 2½% 2003	196	+	3.02	3.25
126	124	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	126	+	2.86	3.06
213	206	Treas IL 2% 2006	213	+	2.87	3.02
194	187	Treas IL 2½% 2009	194	+	2.84	2.95
203	195	Treas IL 2½% 2011	203	+	2.84	2.94
170	162	Treas IL 2½% 2013	170	+	2.81	2.89
185	175	Treas IL 2½% 2016	185	+	2.77	2.85
181	170	Treas IL 2½% 2020	181	+	2.78	2.85
153	142	Treas IL 2½% 2024	153	+	2.76	2.82
151	140	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	151	+	2.72	2.78

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SAGA 30
Millar's tale of credibility gap at British Biotech

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MAY 23 1998

BA link-up damned by US critics

BY JON ASHWORTH

TRANSATLANTIC air fares will rise sharply if the alliance between British Airways and American Airlines goes ahead in its present form, according to a damning critique by anti-trust officials in Washington.

The comments — hard on the heels of this week's anti-trust action against Microsoft — represent a further blow to the BA/AA alliance, which has run into a wall of opposition from regulators in Brussels and America. Unveiled two years ago, scheduling constraints means it now has little chance of flying before the summer of 1999. The alliance has become a public relations débâcle for BA and its chief executive, Bob Ayling.

The proposed deal has enraged competitors including Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, who last night urged American authorities to reject what he termed a "Faustian bargain". In a submission to the US Department of Transportation (DOT), Mr Branson said: "The proposed alliance threatens to devastate competition among airlines flying between the US and the UK by giving American and BA control over nearly 60 per cent of the total frequency between the two countries. The result for consumers is predictable and inevitable: prices will rise, service will suffer and choices will decrease."

Earlier, the powerful US Department of Justice (DOJ), in its submission to the DOT, said BA/American should be blocked unless it is "significantly restructured". The deal as it stands would significantly reduce competition on routes between America and the UK.

Joel Klein, assistant attorney general at the DOJ, said: "The combination of American and British Airways would result in air travellers paying significantly higher fares for travel between the US and Great Britain."

BA sought to play down the impact of the DOJ's submission yesterday, saying: "This is just another step along the regulatory road. In the United States, final approval of our alliance with American Airlines rests with the Department of Transportation which is expected to apply a broader test of public interest."

BA said the DOJ had not considered the advantages of the new "open skies" agreement to be negotiated between the US and UK governments. This would open Heathrow to new US entrants, driving down fares. Opponents suspect BA and American will use their combined strength to force fares higher.

The DOJ wants BA/American to give up 196 weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow — the equivalent of 14 daily round trips. It wants a further 140 weekly slots — or 10 daily round-trips — to be freed up.

The Office of Fair Trading called for 168 slots to be given up, while Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, originally set 353 slots as the price of approval for the alliance. Mr Van Miert is expected to settle for about 300 slots, in his verdict on the alliance next month.

In London, aviation analysts described the DOJ submission as a setback, but no more than that. Chris Avery at Paribas said: "I don't think this is a fatal blow to BA-AA."

BA is next week expected to disclose a sharp fall in 1997 pre-tax profits. The strength of sterling has reduced operating profits by up to £200 million, with a further £125 million lost to last summer's industrial action. Mr Ayling is grappling with a raft of problems, from disenchantment over lost luggage and the BA tailfins to poor employee morale.

Commentary, page 29



Hit shows such as *Cats* provide a good revenue stream for the Really Useful Group

Ovitz prepares to stage Really Useful takeover

BY OLIVER AUGUST AND CHRIS AYRES

MICHAEL OVITZ, the former president of Walt Disney who rescued Livent, the Broadway entertainment company, is thought to be preparing a bid for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group (RUG), the business behind all Mr Lloyd Webber's musical productions.

Mr Ovitz is trying to build a theatre empire to rival Michael Eisner, the current Walt Disney chairman who sacked him two years ago.

In spite of management turmoil at RUG — including the sacking of several executives — the company is attractive because it offers good and constant revenue streams from its many hit shows. Livent already has licensing agreements with RUG for its *Phantom of the Opera* shows.

Mr Ovitz recently revealed his interest in PolyGram's businesses when he briefly entered the bidding war for the Dutch group in conjunction with Forstman Little & Co, a venture capitalist.

A bid for RUG is expected to be provoked if PolyGram puts its 30 per cent stake in the company up for sale. The Dutch company paid $110 million (£68 million) for the stake in 1991.

Penguin to sue over £1 classics covers

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

A LEGAL dispute has broken out between Penguin Books and Wordsworth Editions, the pioneer of the £1 classic paperback, over Wordsworth's new design for its book covers which it launched at the beginning of this year.

Penguin has issued a High Court writ against Wordsworth, accusing the Hertfordshire publisher of "passing off" — making the look of its books so similar to Penguin's own books that buyers could be confused.

Andrew Rosenheim, the managing director of the Penguin Press, publisher of Penguin Classics, said yesterday that the Wordsworth titles were now "virtually indistinguishable" from the Penguin Classics.

Penguin is complaining that the new Wordsworth cover design uses much more black than before, but says also that the spines now look very similar.

The cost of Penguin Classic books range between £2.50 and £8.99, although the company responded to the competition from Wordsworth by launching a £1 Popular Penguin Classics of its own. The complaint involves the main Penguin Classic range.

"We have spent a great deal of money on look and image and we are taking this very seriously," Mr Rosenheim said.

Penguin is seeking damages and in addition is to ask the court to order the handing over or destruction of the offending Wordsworth books.

Wordsworth said last night: "We strenuously deny the claim made against us and will vigorously oppose it."

The company, which launched its £1 titles in 1992, will argue that there cannot be copyright in the amount of black ink used on the cover of a paperback.

A few years ago the *Financial Times*, like Penguin part of Pearson, launched a passing off case against the London *Evening Standard* when it coloured its business pages pink. The FT lost the case.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5955.6	(+20.0)
Yield	2.76%	
FTSE All share	2833.31	(+11.33)
Nikkei	15801.65	(-43.60)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9095.51	(-36.86)*
S&P Composite	1109.84	(-4.80)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	103*	(102²⁸/₃₂)
Yield	5.91%*	(5.92%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7⁷/₁₆%	(7⁷/₁₆%)
Lliffe long gilt future (Jun)	108¹⁷/₃₂	(108¼)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6320*	(1.6290)
London:		
$	1.6331	(1.6325)
DM	2.8708	(2.8691)
FFr	9.6274	(9.6211)
SFr	2.3891	(2.3921)
Yen	221.68	(221.12)
£ Index	102.5	(102.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7583*	(1.7585)
FFr	5.8990*	(5.8925)
SFr	1.4648*	(1.4642)
Yen	135.75*	(135.97)
$ Index	110.2	(110.1)

Tokyo close Yen 135.96

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug) $14.20 ($14.20)

GOLD

London close $300.35 ($300.95)

* denotes midday trading price

American Express launches Blue card

BY LIZANNE ROSE

AMERICAN EXPRESS today launches a new credit card targeted at young consumers. Blue has been chosen to join American Express's existing palette of green, gold and platinum coloured cards because, according to the company, it has youthful connotations. Although available to anyone over 18, the Blue credit card has been developed primarily for the free-spending 23 to 35 age group.

The card has an annual percentage rate (APR) of 9.9 per cent for six months and up to 46 days' interest-free credit. Cardholders receive a 1 per cent cashback on all purchases. An annual fee is charged.

With research showing that 64 per cent of this age group will be carrying a balance on their card for longer than one year, a large number of these customers are going to be relying on credit long-term.

A spokeswoman for the Credit Card Research Group said: "If you do not expect to pay off your balance every month you should go for a card that gives the lowest interest rate possible".

Although the Blue card has an appealing introductory offer, members may pay in the long term with its high back-end rate of 19.50 per cent.

Weekend Money, page 62

Ladbroke set for substantial acquisition

BY DOMINIC WALSH

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group, is thought to be poised to press the button on a significant corporate deal. Industry observers believe a substantial hotel acquisition, possibly related to its US hotel partner, Hilton Hotels Corporation (HHC), is under discussion.

The group's share price has risen sharply over the past year, partly on vague hopes of a deal, but one source said last night: "This time it's for real."

The hunger of Peter George, chief executive of Ladbroke, for big deals is in no doubt after its recent unsuccessful bid for Inter-Continental Hotels. Ladbroke only lost out because it would have been forced to tap shareholders for funds whereas Bass was able to come up with the money immediately.

City analysts suggested Far Eastern hotel groups such as Nikko, Shangri-La and Marco Polo as possible targets, although most watchers favour a deal reuniting HHC's US Hilton hotels with Ladbroke's Hilton International chain.

One suggestion is that Steve Bollenbach, president of HHC, would split gaming from hotels with Ladbroke then buying the hotels division for more than £1.5 billion. An alternative would be for Mr Bollenbach to hive off the hotel property assets into a separate company, possibly assuming tax-efficient real estate investment trust status, while handing control of the hotels to Ladbroke.

In 1996 the two sides implemented an alliance in areas such as marketing and reservations, rejecting a merger only after deciding the tax hurdles were insurmountable. Neither side would comment last night.

☐ A group of 40 MPs called on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to reject Ladbroke's £363 million acquisition of the Coral betting shop chain.



George: hunger for deal

Springer eyes Mirror

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

GERMANY'S largest publisher, the Axel Springer group, said it is considering making a bid for The Mirror group, publishers of *The Mirror* and the *Sunday Mirror*.

The statement caused confusion because earlier yesterday the Hamburg group had been dismissive of market rumours that Springer was interested in *The Mirror*. Last night the company said it was "considering a number of opportunities, which might or might not lead to an offer for Mirror Group Newspapers".

Even before the Springer statement the Mirror share price rose 6½p to 218p, following a 2½p rise on Thursday. Analysts suggested yesterday that a bid from Springer, whose titles include *Bild Zeitung* and *Die Welt*, could not be ruled out. Although it publishes three national newspapers the Mirror is a relatively small media group by international standards, capitalised at about £960 million.

Yesterday Kelvin MacKenzie, deputy chief executive of *The Mirror*, dismissed any threat from Springer. He said: "There is more chance of the group being taken over by Gerry Springer [the controversial American talk show host] than Axel Springer."

Consumers lift growth

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE pace of British economic growth in the first quarter was yesterday revised up slightly to 0.5 per cent from 0.4 per cent but City economists said that a further rise in interest rates was no more likely.

The figures once again highlighted the gap between strong demand at home and pressure on the internationally traded sector.

Consumer spending rose 1 per cent in the first quarter, an increase of 5.1 per cent on a year ago. This was the highest year-on-year growth seen since the final quarter of 1988. Investment was up 1.3 per cent. In contrast, net trade knocked an estimated 0.5 per cent off total economic growth in the first quarter.

Adam Cole, of HSBC Markets, said that, despite the upward revision, growth remains below trend and that this should not put pressure on the Monetary Policy Committee to raise interest rates.

The British Retail Consortium said that consumers were enjoying a combination of healthy earnings rises with low price rises on the high street. NTC Research said data suggested that steady consumer-led growth will continue into 1999.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

President Bill Clinton enjoyed a round of golf with Tony Blair near Chequers this week, as the G8 summit wound up, and the countdown to voting began in Northern Ireland. Authorities in America launched their long-threatened anti-trust action against Microsoft, wiping £6 billion off the company's market value, as Christie's International, the UK fine art auctioneer, fell to a £721 million bid from the French.

The Microsoft action added to jitters in London, where the stock market suffered its third-largest one-day fall of the year on Monday. The FTSE 100 closed down 91.6 points at 5,826.2 on worries over US interest rates and political unrest in Indonesia. Asda, the food retailer, said that it had ended merger talks with Kingfisher, owner of Comet, B&Q and Woolworths, in what is fast becoming retailing's answer to *Dynasty*. Asda has previously explored a tie-up with Safeway, but the talks broke down.

Better fortune for Pearson, the media and information group, which announced its biggest deal to date — the $4.6 billion (£2.8 billion) purchase of the education, reference and professional publishing divisions of Simon & Schuster. Shares in Christie's soared on news of the bid by Artemis, the French holding company controlled by François Pinault. Artemis earlier snapped up 29 per cent of the auction house from Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based billionaire.

It was off to jail for three former directors of Butte Mining, which was the subject of a less-than-successful flotation in 1987. Having an equally unpleasant time of things was Keith McCullagh, chief executive and founder of British Biotech, who said he would be stepping down after September's annual meeting. Dame Barbara Mills, former director of the Serious Fraud Office, is to retire early as Director of Public Prosecutions.

It was a good week for caterers of one sort or another. Mogens Tholstrup, the Danish-born restaurateur, sold his three fashionable London eateries — The Collection, Daphne's and Pasha — to Belgo Group, headed by Luke Johnson, founder of PizzaExpress. He gets £2.5 million in cash plus £3 million in shares in Belgo. Down on the M25, Tim Ingram Hill, chairman and chief executive of RoadChef, sold the motorway service station group to Nikko Europe for £75.2 million in cash. He will hold shares in the group worth a further £12.4 million.

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, threw its £25 million-a-year advertising account up for tender, after four years with Saatchi & Saatchi, now part of Cordiant. Brussels gave the thumbs-up to the impending merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, due to go live from July 1. Marks & Spencer announced 1997 pre-tax profits of £1.17 billion, up 6 per cent, and said that its pugnacious chairman, Sir Richard Greenbury, is to hang up his gloves in three years' time, when he turns 65.

Four former executives of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management were barred from the City for up to three years over the 1996 Peter Young unit trust débâcle. Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment group, said it was buying PolyGram, the Dutch music and film group, from Philips for $10.6 billion (£6.5 billion).

JON ASHWORTH

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AIB Govett reveals plan to thwart arbitrageur

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

GOVETT ORIENTAL, the largest investment trust operating in the Far East, has decided to break itself in three parts in a effort to shake off US arbitrageurs which have dogged it for a year.

The move will enable AIB Govett, which manages the £329 million trust, to buy out Sierra Trading, the aggressive New York finance house that has a 16 per cent stake, but retain most of its 12,000 investors, the majority of whom are private individuals who have held shares for many years.

Arbitrageurs have scored notable victories against investment trusts recently by buying large stakes when shares are cheap and then harrying the boards to break up the trust so as to unlock their latent value.

Last December Sierra Trading and the Liverpool Partnership, another arbitrageur, forced the Overseas Investment Trust, managed by Morgan Grenfell, to fall on its sword. However, their tactics have become unpopular with many private investors who have incurred hefty capital gains bills when the trust hands back their cash.

This time Sierra Trading, which use subsidiaries in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands to achieve its aims, appears to be hoist by its own petard. The firm targeted Oriental in March 1997 after Goldman Sachs sold all the investment trust stakes held by the mighty Coal Board pension fund.

However, things started to go wrong shortly afterwards as the economic crisis in the region broke. Shares in Govett Oriental have almost halved and the plummeting stock markets have made it impossible for the arbitrageur to hedge its investment. The partners Fred Taylor, Andrew Schechtel and Alex Hanson are believed to have suffered heavy losses.

AIB Govett hopes to prevent Sierra from using a stock market recovery to put a hedge in place that would enable it to challenge the board more effectively. It is giving shareholders four options: roll over into a new investment trust with the same mandate; become an open-ended investment company focusing on Asia excluding Japan; become a Japanese index tracking investment trust; or cash. The board has the support of major shareholders including SBC Warburg Dillon Read and Equitable Life.

Dixons in promise on prices

DIXONS, the electrical goods group, has said it will match the price of any like-for-like product being sold by another retailer, if the customer finds the same brand being offered at a discount elsewhere (Karen Woolfson writes).

The pledge comes after Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, made recommended retail prices illegal, a move which led the Consumers' Association to predict the price of electrical goods would fall by up to 25 per cent by the end of the year.

The order, which comes into effect on September 1 will make it illegal for suppliers to recommend retail prices to retailers or to discriminate in their prices or terms and conditions of supply against discount stores.

Dixons said: "Our prices are dictated by being competitive, they're never decided by recommended retail prices. For us the benchmark is competition."

Weekend Money, page 61



Sir David Barnes, the chief executive, will succeed to the chair at the next annual meeting

Thatcher on Tiger advisory board

BY ADAM JONES AND OLIVER AUGUST

BARONESS THATCHER last month joined the advisory board of the world's largest hedge fund that takes billion-dollar bets on global economic developments.

Tiger Management, a Wall Street house investing $18 billion, said the former Prime Minister would lend its money managers her "keen eye" to spot investment opportunities and give "geo-political advice".

She joins Bob Dole, the former US presidential candidate, on the advisory board. Their compensation has not been revealed but will be substantial given that Tiger last year earned 70 cents on every dollar it invested.

A spokesman for Lady Thatcher said the Tiger appointment would not clash with her other advisory board commitment at Hollinger, the parent of *The Daily Telegraph*, where she rubs shoulders with Henry Kissinger.

The spokesman said she would be attending four to six advisory board meetings a year at Tiger. She attends one a year at Hollinger. He refused to discuss Lady Thatcher's work with Philip Morris, the US cigarette group: "That naturally came to its end a year ago."

Zeneca puts cost of sterling at £110m

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

ZENECA'S profits will be reduced by £110 million relative to 1997 by the strength of sterling if the pound stays at yesterday's rate of $1.63 and 2.87 marks, shareholders were told at the annual meeting.

Last year, sterling's advance was blamed for limiting profit growth from 24 per cent before currency changes to a 7 per cent advance to £1.08 billion.

This year, sales of agrochemicals have been held back by cold spring weather. But sales of the group's main pharmaceutical division are growing to budget.

Sir Sydney Lipworth, Zeneca's independent chairman, is to quit at the 1998 annual meeting to make way for Sir David Barnes, the chief executive. Tom McKillop, who now runs the pharmaceutical division, will become chief executive and be replaced by Michael O'Brien, another internal promotion.

Zeneca has asked the US authorities to approve Nolvadex, its tamoxifen breast cancer treatment, for preventive use after a study found it could help healthy women in high-risk groups.

The shares fell a further 10p to £25.30.

Tempus, page 31

Price curbs will increase risk for water investors

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

IAN BYATT, the water regulator, has warned investors in the utility companies he oversees that they will bear higher risks when he changes the way water bills are calculated in two years' time.

The changes aim to make sure that bills do not rise by more than the average amount allowed by the regulator in his review next year. In future, price reviews will also have to be made every five years. Under Water Act licences, maximum price formulae are set for ten years. In practice, however, Ofwat has always used its option to review after five.

Companies will no longer be able to charge other customers more to compensate when big business users take advantage of competition to negotiate lower prices. Hitherto, any losses have been recouped through the tariff basket because any price rises allowed by Ofwat were meant to be needed to finance statutory investment.

Any savings made by wealthier customers switching to metered supplies will also come out of profits. Until now, they could be compensated by higher general charges to the majority of customers who do not have water meters.

This has become a critical issue because the Government has proposed that any customer should be able to demand a meter free of charge. Several water companies have withdrawn their agreement to the tariff change as a result.

Mr Byatt estimated in his response to the Government's charging proposals last week that these and related changes could induce about 10 per cent of customers who live in highly rated houses or who use little water to switch to meters. When factored into his price review, this would increase average bills by an extra 2 per cent or £2.40 a year.

The regulator said he was publishing the tariff changes early so that the stock market could assess the higher risk. Ofwat could then build that into the cost of share capital on which prices are set.

On the stock market, there was no initial response to the change. Most water company shares were little changed. Investors appear to have been reassured that Mr Byatt is giving companies ample opportunity to take account of lost income, if not the higher risks, into their submissions to Ofwat over price limits.

He said companies should think carefully about the impact of the Government's reviews on them and reassured them that he would be prepared to consider the effects.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Britannic finance director to retire

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE announced yesterday that David Barnes, its 49-year-old finance director, was retiring next month to be replaced by Marisa Cassoni, who has been financial director of Prudential's UK division since July 1994. Mr Barnes, who has been with the insurer for three years, will receive severance pay of about £130,000 and when he reaches his 50th birthday next March will be able to draw a pension of about £44,000 a year. He worked previously at Cheltenham & Gloucester, the home loans division of Lloyds TSB.

The appointment came as a surprise to the City. One analyst said: "We regarded David Barnes as a solid finance director, although the company is run mainly by the chairman and chief executive." He will leave the board on June 15 to retire early "to concentrate on his other interests". Britannic said Mr Barnes's departure was "straightforward and amicable". Harold Cottam, chairman, said: "David has made an important contribution to Britannic during a period of significant change." United Assurance has revealed that George Mack, who left as chief executive in January and has not been replaced, received almost £500,000 for loss of office.

Castings encouraged

CASTINGS, the engineering group based in the West Midlands, raised pre-tax profits from £10.6 million to £11.4 million in the year to March 31 on sales up from £62.2 million to £66.7 million. A rise in the final dividend from 3.55p to 4.17p is proposed after an increase in the interim from 1.43p to 1.68p. Earnings rose from 16.47p to 18.28p. The shares remained unchanged at 217½p. The company said: "It is pleasing to note that the pound has recently weakened and both our customers and ourselves will be able to export with more confidence."

Concentric shares slip

SHARES in Concentric, the engineering company that recently received a mystery bid approach, fell 6p to 136½p yesterday. The company reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £3.4 million to £2.9 million and a fall in earnings per share from 4.20p to 3.61p in the six months to March 31 on sales up from £63.5 million to £68.5 million. The dividend rises from 2.15p to 2.26p. Ian Clubb, chairman, said: "The investments we have made in process improvement, both internally and also from a marketing standpoint, are incremental, not immediate, in their returns."

Pubmaster purchase

PUBMASTER, the former Brent Walker subsidiary, is paying more than £15 million for a package of 54 tenanted pubs from Lancashire's Devonshire Pub Company, taking its total estate to 1,461 public houses. The deal, which bolsters its presence in the North West of England, is the first significant acquisition since Pubmaster was acquired from Brent Walker by NatWest Equity Partners and PPM Ventures in November 1996. A year ago it sold its 78 managed houses for about £35 million to focus more on the tenanted sector of the business.

New chief lifts Vaux

SHARES in Vaux, the regional brewer, hotelier and pub operator, gained 11p to 280½p following confirmation that Martin Grant, managing director of Allied Domecq Leisure, is to become chief executive. Mr Grant is expected to use his experience running Allied pub brands such as Firkin and Big Steak to revitalise Vaux's managed house division. His career includes stints with Whitbread, Grand Metropolitan and Marks & Spencer. Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman of Vaux, is stepping down to non-executive chairman.

Staffware placing

STAFFWARE, the Aim-listed company, is to place 600,000 shares with institutions at 890p a share to raise around £5.34 million. The proceeds will be used to take advantage of new marketing opportunities that are emerging in the workflow market. The company also wants to make small complementary acquisitions without going back to shareholders. The shares fell from 945p to 917½p. Staffware reported a high level of interest in its products and said that trading prospects continue in line with expectations.

Clubhaus seeks £10.6m

CLUBHAUS plans to raise £10.6 million net of expenses through a placing and open offer priced at 89p a share. The shares fell 1p to 93½p yesterday. The money will be used for building health and fitness clubs at eight of the group's golf courses. The company said it will install new facilities such as swimming pools, gymnasia and saunas as well as beauty and treatment rooms. £10 million in new bank facilities has been provided by Barclays. Clubhaus said that its first-quarter trading was "encouraging across the group".

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THE TIMES

Japanese banks report worsening debt crisis

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

A WAVE of Japanese banks revealed heavy losses yesterday caused by efforts to deal with moutainous bad debts.

The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, the world's largest when measured by assets, fell into the red with a pre-tax loss of 917.52 billion yen (£4.14 billion) in the year to March 31, against a previous profit of 94.78 billion yen. BTM also said it had almost $15 billion (£9.4 billion) of loan exposure to five Asian nations.

BTM expects to return to profitability in the current year after the disposal of a large amount of problem loans, and predicts a pre-tax profit of 150 billion yen. The bank took a 1.4 trillion yen charge to cover existing and potential loan losses in the year to March and is reckoning on a 270 billion yen charge for loan losses this year.

At March 31, BTM's outstanding problem loans totalled 2.25 trillion yen, 567 billion yen higher than a year earlier. The bank believes, however, that it has covered about 90 per cent of its expected losses on problem loans.

Five other big commercial banks, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, Sanwa Bank, Fuji Bank, Tokai Bank and Asahi Bank, also reported large parent current losses yesterday, following Thursday's loss announcements by Sumitomo Bank and Daiwa Bank. Among the five, Fuji Bank posted the biggest loss of 576.3 billion yen for 1997/98 after posting 980 billion yen worth of loan loss charges.

All of the big banks said that they took one-off charges against earnings to cover their existing and potential loan losses from the last business year in an attempt to ensure they would be able to report profits in the current year.

Analysts were not so optimistic, predicting that the Asian crisis and mounting corporate bankruptcies meant three more years would be needed to resolve the problem.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister of Japan, has made dealing with bank loan problems a top priority.



Ryutaro Hashimoto: PM made bank loans problem a priority

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.68	2.50
Austria Sch	21.20	19.54
Belgium Fr	62.35	57.40
Canada $	2.491	2.309
Cyprus Cyp£	0.890	0.819
Denmark Kr	11.53	10.64
Finland Mkk	9.27	8.52
France Fr	10.09	9.31
Germany Dm	3.03	2.79
Greece Dr	516	479
Hong Kong $	13.48	12.28
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.20	1.11
Israel Shk	6.32	5.67
Italy Lira	3005	2768
Japan Yen	236.03	218.50
Malta	0.671	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.426	3.131
New Zealand $	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	12.68	11.74
Portugal Esc	306.42	284.39
S Africa Rd	9.00	8.04
Spain Pta	255.27	236.48
Sweden Kr	13.37	12.27
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.32
Turkey Lira	418230	396352
USA $	1.739	1.595

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SMASHING WINDOWS
"As Microsoft shipped Windows 98, the Justice Department and 20 states filed the biggest anti-trust action since John D Rockefeller's oil empire was broken up 87 years ago..."
Business Focus — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Ayling chief needs Marshall aid

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

British Airways tried hard to put a brave face on the latest bad news. While America's crusading trustbuster, Joel Klein, was putting BA in the same offensive league as his other current enemy, Microsoft, BA was blitheley saying that the US Justice Department's objections to its long-planned merger with American Airlines were just another regulatory hurdle.

Shareholders, however, are beginning to fear for the deal, and for BA. The company that was once the epitome of Britain's second industrial revolution has lost its shine. Bob Ayling, chief executive, has more than enough to keep him occupied without a bruising battle with Klein.

In these difficult times, Ayling needs the support of his chairman more than ever, but Sir Colin Marshall's apparent inability to say no to job offers must limit the time that he can make available to help at BA. Let us just recap on Sir Colin's list of appointments. On the corporate side, there is the chairmanship of Inchcape, deputy chairmanship of Siebe and deputy chairmanship of British Telecom. None of them are minor companies but, once on the board, Sir Colin does like to make himself useful, so at BT, where directors have had much to think about of late, he chairs the remuneration committee. He fits in a directorship of HSBC, another organisation where the board may have had one or two interesting things to discuss of late. Oh, and he is a director of the RAC, deep into demutualisation arguments.

Chairing a national airline and keeping up with a raft of directorships is not enough to keep the energetic 64-year-old fully occupied. Neither is being President of the CBI. So he has just taken on the chairmanship of the London Development partnership, drawing up the economic strategy for the mayor that the capital is to have — he hasn't volunteered for that post yet, but it would make sense. In the meantime, he is deputy chairman of the Financial Reporting Council, vice-chairman of the World Travel and Tourism Council, a director of the New York Stock Exchange and the Marketing Council, a council member of the Institute of Directors, and vice-president of the Advertising Association.

In between committee meetings, and there must be an agonising number of those, Sir Colin likes to do his bit for Britain. He is helping out with the Millennium Dome, to which, coincidentally, both BA and BT have committed several million pounds apiece. Even on a trip to Japan, he found the time to try to persuade Japanese businessmen that they should help out Peter Mandelsson's project.

Just remembering which hat he is wearing on any particular occasion would be a remarkable achievement, and Sir Colin, apparently, always does. But he is only human and there is surely the risk that he just might be overstretching himself. He is only a non-executive chairman at BA, but might the company, and Bob Ayling, benefit from even more of his attention?

Demerger is Nott the only answer

A company that includes poultry breeding, housebuilding and furniture manufacturing among its interests might be flattered to be labelled a conglomerate. But Hillsdown Holdings is more confusion than conglomerate. Its current mismatch of businesses has been achieved after what it has already deemed to be substantial restructuring. More drastic action is required and the chairman, Sir John Nott, has decreed that the company will undergo a complicated demerging.

It takes a brave man even to try to suggest an alternative course to the man most famous for storming out of a television interview when, as Defence Secretary, he did not like the way the questions were going. But burly Ian Martin may be able to ease Sir John towards a different direction. Martin, the chairman of Unigate, has so far failed to persuade Sir John to sell him Hillsdown, in part or in whole. He is not the type to give up and the likelihood is that, behind the scenes, Martin is still trying to argue that he has a neater, cleaner solution to Hillsdown's problems. After years of misery, shareholders might be inclined to share this viewpoint and happily settle for cash now, rather than the promised demerger profits.

In their preliminary talks, Unigate ventured as far as a price of 207p, not so far from the level that even the most optimistic analysts put on the company after a self-inflicted break-up. A few pence more should encourage a reasonable board to opt for the simple solution.

Yet Hillsdown is not the only company that seems inclined towards taking the complicated route of demerger when a bidder is knocking on the door. Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman, has made clear his determination to float Selfridges as a separate company, despite the fact that there are said to be several potential purchasers for the department store business. After making so many errors of judgment at Sears, he may feel safer letting the stock market determine what Selfridges is worth rather than deciding what is a reasonable offer himself. The one certainty is that flotation will see shareholders forking out for some hefty City fees.

Sir David Alliance has also found that deciding on a demerger brings the buyers knocking. Having said that Viyella will be floated off from Coats, he is now in receipt of a bid from William Baird. Putting Baird and Viyella together makes strong commercial sense. One can only assume that such a link has already been given the blessing of St Michael, for one leading M&S supplier would not dream of buying another if the move would offend Baker Street.

Big ambitions, by George

Hilton Hotels is a genuine global brand. There is an irresistible logic in restoring it to a single entity. Peter George, the Ladbroke chief executive, has talked in the past about putting his Hilton International chain with the US Hilton, now run by Steve Bollenbach. It did not happen then, but analysts believe that it could happen now.

George, despite his unassuming manner, has big ambitions. He has amply demonstrated that, most recently with the acquisition of the Coral betting shop chain, now under the MMC microscope. But the hotels business offers real international excitement. George would have liked to have won Inter-Continental, and was not put off by a price tag heading towards £2 billion, but Bass beat him to that prize. With Hilton, he has the advantage of being halfway there.

Analysts believe that Bollenbach sees the future for his business in casinos and not in hotel management. Ladbroke is ready, willing and able to take over that responsibility, either buying the operations outright or taking over the management. The companies already co-operate on marketing. But if the Hilton deal cannot be done, there is a consolation prize available. Lonrho has still to finalise the sale of its Princess hotel business, despite much talk of Far Eastern princes with money to burn.

Tiger pounces

BARONESS THATCHER'S appointment as an adviser to Tiger Management takes her to the sharp end of investment. Tiger is a hedge fund, undertaking just the sort of financial gambling that made life difficult for her Government. But the formidable former PM may now be able to enjoy a little competition against the likes of George Soros.

Cheaper gas a reality as deregulation is completed

BY ADAM JONES

EVERY household in England, Scotland and Wales will be able to switch to a different gas supplier from today after the Government completed the deregulation process started in April 1996.

Today, 3.1 million people in Greater London and Surrey will be given the power to switch from British Gas, lured by savings of up to 20 per cent on an average gas bill of £320 a year.

Yesterday, this freedom was granted to a further 2.1 million in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, the Isle of Wight, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk.

A spokesman for Ofgas, the gas industry regulator, said: "Everyone should have access to 23 different suppliers now."

Ofgas, which is headed by Clare Spottiswoode, said yesterday that two million people have so far switched and another two million have signed contracts with gas suppliers and should be moving soon.

The advent of competition has had its own problems, however.

There have been complaints about misleading sales techniques employed by some of the new suppliers. Northern Electric was carpeted by Ofgas for poor recruitment, training and monitoring of its salesforce.

Ofgas is also investigating the doorstep selling practices of Eastern Natural Gas and an announcement is expected to be released in the next couple of weeks.

The Ofgas spokesman said the number of complaints about doorstep selling fell 38 per cent in April compared with March.

ANTHONY UPTON



Clare Spottiswoode celebrating the advent of wider deregulation of the gas supply system

Biocompatibles knocked by quality problems

BY PAUL DURMAN

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the medical coatings company whose shares have lost 90 per cent of last year's peak value, has suffered severe quality problems in making the devices it had intended to supply to Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare group.

Announcing a £29 million share issue that will finance the company until the end of 1999, Jeremy Curnock Cook, chairman, said until recently less than one in ten of the blood vessels supports, or stents, made at its Irish factory had been of acceptable quality.

Hopes that J&J would acquire the distribution rights for Biocompatibles' divYsio stents briefly gave the group a market value of £1 billion. The share price collapse that began last September, when J&J pulled out of the proposed deal, continued after the departure of Alastair Taylor, chief executive, in February.

Mr Curnock Cook said Biocompatibles had suffered from lack of attention to detail. Its Proclear contact lenses have proved uncomfortable for US consumers and the company's distribution strategy had been unrealistically optimistic.

Biocompatibles has appointed distributors for its stents in eight European countries and is to develop grafts that require its coatings with Boston Scientific, a US medical device company.

After expenses, Biocompatibles will raise £26 million by issuing one share at 130p and one warrant exercisable at 180p for every four ordinary shares. The warrants, exercisable from next August 31, could raise an additional £20 million.

Full-year results for 1997 showed operating losses deepening to £29.5 million (£19.1 million) on sales that grew from £11 million to only £13.3 million.

Tempus, page 30

Merrydown shake-up plan

BY DOMINIC WALSH

MERRYDOWN, the troubled Sussex cidermaker, has unveiled a wide-ranging financial and management shake-up to revive its fortunes.

The company has raised £7 million in a placing of shares and has signed commercial agreements with Shepherd Neame, the Kent brewer, and SHS, a food and drink brokerage, that will enable it to streamline its operations with the loss of 50 jobs.

Paul Millman, managing director, is to leave with a £200,000 payoff, while Richard Purdey, who recently stepped down from chairman to non-executive vice-chairman, has accepted a four-year consultancy at £60,000 a year in lieu of a £480,000 payoff.

Including total exceptionals of £3.27 million, Merrydown dived to a loss of £3.05 million in the nine months to December 31.

Nigel Freer, a former executive with HP Bulmer, becomes chief executive, and the two non-executive directors will be replaced by John Jackson, formerly of Hillsdown Holdings, and Robert Neame, of Shepherd Neame.

St Ives in £33m agreed takeover bid for rival

BY FRASER NELSON

ST IVES, the printing company, has made a £33 million agreed takeover bid for its rival, Hunters Armley, one of Britain's oldest printing firms.

In its first acquisition for two years, St Ives is offering cash and shares for Hunters in a deal which will double its direct mail division and bring a significant presence in the North of England.

Hunters, which is 125 years old, prints advertising inserts for magazines and newspapers in Leeds and Bradford.

Like St Ives, it also produces junk mail and has contracts from companies who target customers using information gathered by loyalty cards.

Miles Emley, the chairman of St Ives, said: "The direct response sector has been growing at close to double-digit levels for most of the current decade."

The takeover will be worth £1.31 million for Brian Sugden, Hunters' managing director, who holds a 4.4 per cent stake. David Bird, who joined the company in 1961, will have his stake valued at £537,000.



Miles Emley: growing

Mr Emley said the enlarged company will have a 10 per cent share of the direct mail market in Britain. The takeover is understood to have been helped by Schroders Investment Management, which owns 10 per cent of Hunters and 15.2 per cent of St Ives.

Hunters made a pre-tax profit of £2.2 million (£1.96 million) in the six months to March 31 and will pay an interim dividend of 1.65p on July 10.

St Ives's offer values the Hunters shares at 125p.

Tempus, page 31

Hogg Robinson in £18.2m buyout of Canadian partner

BY DOMINIC WALSH

HOGG ROBINSON, the travel and financial services group, is buying a 51 per cent stake in Rider Travel, a Canadian business travel provider, for up to C$42.6 million (£18.2 million). It also has an option to buyout the remaining 49 per cent in three years' time for a minimum of C$20 million.

Rider Travel, founded in 1982 by Mark Rider and based in Toronto, is a partner in Business Travel International (BTI), a joint venture involving 50 companies in 60 countries that is managed by Hogg Robinson. It has 17 business travel centres and has an outsourcing arm that operates from 120 companies across Canada. Last year, it reported pre-tax profits of C$8.4 million from turnover of C$489 million.

The deal announced yesterday is Hogg Robinson's fourth in the last 18 months involving partners in BTI. The other three, adding up to a total investment of £4 million, brought control of its partners in Australia, Russia and France and Italy.

Chris Fry, sales and marketing director, said: "We would expect to see further deals of this nature. It is part of our stated strategy that we will buy out partners as appropriate when they become available. We have the facilities available to do so."

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*To 31 March 1998.

Setting sale

IF YOU want to sell off a grand old piece of British history to Johnny Foreigner, try popping round to the Farringdon Road offices of Merrill Lynch (formerly Smith New Court, of course). This week the firm has been trumpeting its role as adviser to Cendant Corporation in its acquisition of RAC Motoring Services. Prior to that it helped Cendant to buy National Parking Corporation, Blackstone to purchase the Savoy and helped Chirstie's International into the arms of that loveable Frenchman, François Pinault. Any other traditional family silver hanging around, you know where to go.

☐ EVEN the sleepy world of ball fever. Advertisements are have started appearing in the trade press feature featuring a "tour" by three self-styled pension gurus — Ron Spill, Steve Bee and Dennis Gamester, all dressed in dark suits and shades — under the caption "talking pensions...watching football". As two of the three "Men in Pensions" used to work for companies with a large caseload of mis-sold pensions, perhaps the caption should be "watching football, avoiding the issues".

Seeing red

WORLD Cup fever is promising to make it a record year for City Index, the spread betting boys who brought City techto the world of the tic-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

tac men. Four years ago City Index took £1 million of bets on the World Cup, this rose to £5 million for Euro 96 and now the firm is expecting a bonanza in the next few weeks.

"Based on the bets we have already taken on the long-term markets and the inquiries for new accounts in the run up to the World Cup, I am very confident that we will exceed £10 million worth of bets for the events," Wally Pyrah of Sporting Index tells me.

The bet that is really taking off is the red card index, estimating how many sending offs will take place. Initially punters were estimating nine or ten players would take an early bath during the tournament, now the estimate has risen to more than 40.

Any port

THE new chairman of the Friends of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich is a management consultant. Predictable enough, I suppose, they seem to have invaded every other part of the nation's life, so let them run the museums as well. Philip Banks is vice-president at AT Kearney, the American consultant. Most of our maritime encounters with the Americans, such as the War of 1812, have been unpleasant ones, but we must learn to forgive and forget, and anyway, he is as British as *HMS Shannon*. Sorry, not a good comparison.

Except for the fact that Kearney is a corporate member of the museum, what is the link between maritime history and management consultancy? Banks slips easily into consultant-speak. "Museums and consultants are quite a natural alliance." So he talks about the integration of world trade, about globalised markets, and the fact the two thirds of trade is by sea. Too tenuous, I say.

He tries another tack. "A museum is a business enterprise. It's also a repository of knowledge. Each year it has to make more revenue than it has in costs." Closer. But does he actually know anything about sailing? "I'm a landlubber," he says. "I don't actually have a boat or anything."

Incredible drugs saga leaves credibility gap

Paul Durman says British Biotech fails to answer many damaging allegations



Andy Millar believes that British Biotech's directors should get on their bikes

After five weeks of the extraordinary British Biotech saga, I still have to pinch myself occasionally. This is a company that came close to entering the FTSE 100 but which is now in tatters. It stands accused of countenancing insider share dealing by some directors, misleading the stock market and regulatory authorities and, worse still, refusing to acknowledge that one of its main drug hopes may be a dud.

Surely there must be a simple explanation for all these damaging allegations about this company that promised groundbreaking treatments for cancer and pancreatitis? Or, if not, surely one of the distinguished names on the board will have the strength of character to step forward and say: "Sorry, we have made mistakes, we should have been more open, we will make amends."

Apparently not — even after Keith McCullagh, the drug development company's founder, finally recognised the need to stand down this week as chief executive in the hope of restoring some stability and credibility. John Raisman, chairman, and the rest of his board declared themselves "fully satisfied that he has acted honourably throughout".

This is in spite of the fact that the company's own circular to shareholders, published last week in an effort to stem criticism, does next to nothing to undermine charges that British Biotech repeatedly misled the stock market. Nor that Dr McCullagh made a fortune selling shares while in possession of price-sensitive information. Nor that British Biotech has refused to recognise evidence that its lead drug does not work.

The company claims its circular provided a "detailed rebuttal" of all allegations. The circular is long and it contains many details, but it is far from a convincing rebuttal. British Biotech's view that the allegations it faces are unfounded is based on no more than its own assertions — principally that the matters complained of are of no substance or that it was under no obligation to make any fuller disclosure.

Indeed, the circular confirms all the main allegations first aired by *The Times*:

☐ that the company is under investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission for making allegedly misleading statements about marimastat, its cancer drug;

☐ that the company knew of the side-effect problems of batimastat, an earlier cancer drug, two months before Dr McCullagh and two other directors sold £1.35 million of shares — days before clinical trials were suspended in January 1995; and

☐ that the company was told of the drug regulators' main objections to Zacutex (the pancreatitis compound) shortly before issuing two upbeat press releases last May. Despite this, it decided not to inform the stock market of any setback until the regulators formally turned down the drug last February.

The circular also showed that Dr McCullagh had lied to *The Times* about his knowledge of the efforts made to discover the emerging results from trials of Zacutex, British Biotech's pancreatitis drug. This is crucial because it is the so-called "unblinding" of the Zacutex trial that has confirmed the belief of some of the company's senior scientists that the drug will not treat pancreatitis effectively. Ignoring such evidence would mean that the company has misled the stock market and the doctors and patients participating in the trial.

Continuing to test a useless unlicensed medicine would be a serious breach of medical ethics. But the very fact of unblinding itself threatens the chances of Zacutex securing regulatory approval.

With the exception of Dr McCullagh, Mr Raisman and all Biotech's executive directors deny knowing about the unblinding or, perhaps more importantly, the significance of the data thus revealed. In a sworn statement, Andy Millar, the dismissed director of clinical research, has said he "expressly informed" all of them of his growing doubts about Zacutex.

Experts, inside and outside the company, have said that even from the "blinded" data (which conceals which patients have taken Zacutex and which the placebo) it is clear that Zacutex will not prove effective.

The company now has data from at least 927 patients of the 1,500 scheduled to be recruited into the Zacutex trial, yet it claims it is not possible to judge whether the drug works until the full trial is completed. One expert said: "It's like saying you have to interview ten million people to predict the result of a general election. It's garbage."

This is just one of many serious flaws in the shareholder circular. Senior British Biotech executives, past and present, point to numerous omissions, selective use of facts and misrepresentations. One senior employee said: "It's an extraordinarily disappointing circular and has dismayed people who had hoped the company had turned over a new leaf."

The insider dealing allegations — potentially the most personally damaging to Dr McCullagh — are covered in a relatively brief two pages, with little attempt to examine the knowledge of the directors after a key meeting of January 10, 1995, one week before the share sales.

As *The Times* has revealed, a much more damaging perspective on Dr McCullagh's 1995 share dealings comes from Cameron McKenna, the law firm called in to report on Dr Millar's allegations. Cameron McKenna said: "It may be argued that at, or shortly after the . . . meeting on January 10, 1995, there existed 'a matter which constitutes unpublished price-sensitive information'."

Worse still, the lawyers suggest that Biotech subsequently misled the Stock Exchange's insider dealing inquiry by glossing over the doubts that existed about batimastat.

This may explain why British Biotech used a court injunction to prevent publication by *The Times* of the Cameron McKenna report for a month — even though it relied on it to justify Dr Millar's dismissal.

British Biotech was still insisting that all was well as the potential market for its product shrunk by as much as 85 per cent. By early last December, the company was forced to consider seeking a more modest regulatory approval for Zacutex, limiting the drug to treating cases of severe acute pancreatitis — about 15 per cent of the potential market. Yet Biotech says in its circular that: "The impact of the amendments on the commercial potential for Zacutex was analysed and considered to be insignificant."

Numerous other criticisms of the circular include the lack of substance in the apparently comforting comments about the company's finances.

Timid institutional investors, fond of pontificating about corporate governance, are reluctant to get involved in such an embarrassingly high-profile affair. Even Perpetual, the most critical of Biotech's large shareholders, fondly hopes that Dr McCullagh's departure and the cost-cutting outlined in the circular will allow stability to return. This looks unlikely while the board continues to refuse to confront the issues. One senior executive said this week: "It's great that Keith is going. It would be great if the rest of them went too."

MILLAR WAS KEPT IN DARK

Andy Millar, British Biotech's former director of clinical research, was deliberately kept in the dark about regulators' objections to the company's pancreatitis drug for a key three-day period in May 1997, according to his sworn statement.

The disclosure throws new light on British Biotech's statement that Dr Millar gave his approval to one of the upbeat press releases, issued on May 12 last year, that are alleged to have given a misleading impression to the stock market. Dr Millar unsuccessfully led internal attempts to persuade Keith McCullagh, his chief executive, to issue a correction for fear of having damaged the company's relationship with drug regulators.

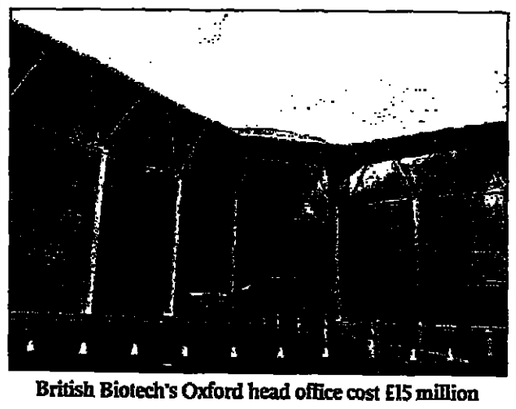
According to Dr Millar's affidavit — prepared as part of a successful attempt by *The Times* to overturn British Biotech's legal block on the publication of a report by Cameron McKenna — he was not told that the reports from the regulators' assessors had arrived when he returned from a business trip to the US on May 9, 1997. Neil Graham, deputy head of regulatory affairs, told Dr Millar that the reports were not due until the following week. This was untrue, since British Biotech had received the reports on May 7 and 8, as the company's circular confirms.

Dr Millar first learnt of the strongly negative reports at 5pm on Sunday, May 11, when Dr McCullagh called him at home. The chief executive told Dr Millar that the press release — he was then only aware of one — could not be stopped because it was "already on the wire".

Mr Graham, who is said to have been inconsolable at having been asked to mislead Dr Millar, will not discuss what happened. He has since moved to become director of regulatory affairs at Shire Pharmaceuticals.

The press releases generated highly favourable coverage for British Biotech.

In the affidavit, Dr Millar says he was unable to persuade the company's executive directors, Paul Littlewood, its internal legal adviser, and Katie Arber, its head of corporate communications, that British Biotech had damaged its credibility with regulators. Ms Arber has refused to speak to *The Times* since the paper first put Dr Millar's account to her a month ago.



British Biotech's Oxford head office cost £15 million

Bronfman goes for an expensive song

If the picture painted of Edgar Bronfman Jr on Wall Street is to be believed, he will spend this weekend thumbing through his address book, adding a few more big names to his already swollen list of celebrity chums.

The chief executive of Canada's Seagram will certainly get an impressive selection of showbusiness heavyweights for the $10.6 billion (£6.5 billion) he paid on Thursday for PolyGram. The Dutch entertainment group is home to such rock glitterati as Bono, U2's leather-clad crooner, and Sheryl Crow, the pop singer and sex symbol. Mr Bronfman will also temporarily become sugar-daddy to some of the worlds's most achingly trendy film-makers, including the Cohen brothers, Alan Parker and Tim Robbins.

It seems to have long been a source of anguish for Mr Bronfman that his grandfather Sam founded a drinks company to supply bootleggers in 1928 instead of buying into the glamour of Hollywood. Having taken control of the company in 1994, Mr Bronfman has sacrificed billions of dollars — and much of his credibility on Wall Street — to change that.

It took several years for Mr Bronfman, the second-eldest son of the first of his father's four wives, to abandon his artistic instincts and join the family business. After graduating from the elite Collegiate School in Manhattan, the young Mr Bronfman decided not to go to college and instead spent his late teens becoming entangled in the ephemeral social whirl of Hollywood.

Having made his first family-funded film at the age of 14, Mr Bronfman tried to make a name for himself in the film business. He made *The Blockhouse*, starring Peter Sellers, and *The Border*, starring Jack Nicholson. He also started writing songs. The fact that he eventually gave up and joined Seagram in 1982, at the age of 26, is perhaps testament to how much his father's wealth and influence helped those films to get made.

At Seagram he enjoyed a spectacular rise to the top, ascribed by his many critics to nepotism. Only a year after becoming chief executive, he moved the company into the world of showbusiness, buying MCA/Universal, the entertainment conglomerate, from Japan's Matsushita Electric for $5.7 billion.

Mr Bronfman, a lanky and perfectly coiffured figure with a neatly trimmed beard, still moonlights as a songwriter, and recently wrote the theme song for the film *Daylight*, starring Sylvester Stallone. He is said to charm his celebrity friends with his quiet, self-deprecating manner, although he is clearly a man of intense ambition.



CV: EDGAR BRONFMAN JR

Born in 1956
Makes first film in 1970 at 14
Becomes professional film producer in 1973
Joins Seagram in 1982
Appointed chief operating officer in 1989 and chief executive in 1994
Buys MCA/Universal for $5.7 billion in 1995
Bids for but fails to buy EMI in April 1998
Buys PolyGram for $10.6 billion in May 1998

IN THE HOT SEAT

But Mr Bronfman's love of Hollywood glitz has turned him into a figure of derision on Wall Street. *The Wall Street Journal* cruelly dubbed him "the starstruck whiskey king" when he sold Seagram's 25 per cent stake in DuPont for $8.8 billion to finance his acquisition of Universal — a move later to become known as "Bronfman's folly".

Seagram's stock promptly plummeted, while DuPont's stock doubled in value, leaving Mr Bronfman's shareholders some $10 billion — or $60 a share — poorer. The bickering over that deal — which nearly caused a full-scale family feud — continues to this day. Mr Bronfman is said to be still tortured by the decision and is determined to redeem himself.

Even within Seagram, Mr Bronfman's management style has provoked disdain. In the late 1980s, he went against the advice of an advertising agency and personally hired Bruce Willis, the Hollywood actor, to promote the company's Golden Wine Cooler. Although the campaign was a success, employees were stunned by Mr Bronfman's obsession with the minutiae of the campaign, which was said to extend to altering the storyboards of the television adverts and advising Mr Willis on his outfits.

Mr Bronfman is apparently well aware of his lightweight, playboy image. His deal with PolyGram, which will inevitably been seen as yet another ill-advised flirtation with the world of showbusiness, piles yet more pressure on him. He has as much to play down as he has to live up to.

But Seagram is keen to point out that Mr Bronfman works punishingly long hours, and tirelessly commutes between Seagram's New York headquarters and Universal's offices in Hollywood. Because of Mr Bronfman's hectic lifestyle, his second wife and three of his six children spend part of each year at residences in both places. Even so, it will take a lot more than a tough daily routine to convince the world that Edgar Bronfman Jr is more interested in financial returns for his shareholders than chasing some elusive showbusiness dreams at their expense.

CHRIS AYRES

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE claws back deficit as investors regain spirit

INVESTOR confidence can be a fragile thing but the losses recorded just a few days ago have been shrugged off in a *robust manner. Share prices* rallied from a nervous start to the week to end on a firm note.

The FTSE 100 index clawed back an early 26-point deficit to finish the session near its best of the day with a rise of 20.0 at 5,955.6, stretching the rise on the week to 37.8 points. *It shrugged off the ill effects* from the upward revision in the GDP and ignored the opening volatility displayed by the Dow Jones industrial average at the start of trading on Wall Street.

Demand was clearly focused on *the* second liners with the FTSE 250 closing 43.3 up at 5,897.8. But trading conditions generally proved thin with investors making an early start ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend.

Turnover was low and would have been even lower had it not been for bouts of short covering. By the close a modest 883 million shares had changed hands.

Late trading was dominated by the spectacular fall in shares of **Ionica Group**, *which ended the session 49p,* or 57.6 per cent, down at 36p as more than two million *shares* were traded. The troubled wireless telecoms group says it has been told to raise additional capital in order to secure further debt on reason*able terms. In the past year*, since the shares were floated, Ionica has slumped from a eak of 421p.

EMI Group was a nervous narket ahead of full-year re- ults next week expected to how a further decline in *rofitability. Salomon Broth-* rs. the broker, has been iking a cautious stance on MI. down 19½p at 522½p.

The knockback for **British irways** from the US Depart- ient of Justice over its pro- osed link-up with American *rlines left the shares 1½p* sier at 647½p, having previ- sly hit 635p. The Americans e applying pressure for the al to be significantly restruc- ed before giving their proval. BA, where Robert ling is chief executive, is e to report full-year results t week. There have been ge numbers of profit ngradings in recent ths. Analysts were origi- y looking for a surplus of) million but are now casting £420 million.



Don Carty, American Airlines chairman, with Robert Ayling

Mirror Group rose 7½p to 218p although Axel Springer, the German newspaper publisher, said it had not made an offer for the company. However, it was considering a number of options in order to clarify the situation.

Newcomer **LLP Group** stood out with a rise of 19p to 357½p after recent selling by venture capitalists was completed.

Hunters Armley shot up 35½p to 125½p after agreeing the terms of a bid with rival St Ives, 20½p dearer at 505½p. Under the terms St Ives will *offer 125p a share, valuing* Hunters at £33 million.

Iceland Group continued to make headway, adding 7½p to 257½p with the help of a "buy" recommendation from Panmure Gordon, the broker. *This week the group told shareholders that its home-* delivery service had boosted overall sales, with like-for-like sales up 14 per cent.

J Sainsbury retreated 3¼p to 497p, after touching 488p, as BT Alex Brown, the broker, began urging clients to switch into **Tesco**, 13p better at 559p. David McCarthy says both companies are on a similar rating and this represents an excellent opportunity to switch into a more secure business.

Some cautious comments to shareholders at the annual meeting left **Burmah Castrol** 27p off at £12.53. Current trading was described as *mixed with Germany particularly weak.*

Zeneca, down 10p at £25.30, was also in a gloomy mood for shareholders at its AGM. It says the strong pound is likely to wipe a further £110 million *off profits in the current year.*

NFC softened 1½p to 191p after Credit Suisse First Boston downgraded its recommendation on the shares from "buy" to "hold".

A flurry of profit-taking left newcomer **Computacenter** 22½p lower at 743½p. Conditional trading in the shares began on Thursday after they were priced at 670p. The sector's other newcomer, **ICM Computer**, rose 16½p to 287p *after a placing at 180p.*

Elsewhere in the sector **Superscape** advanced a further 26p to 259p, still reflecting this week's deal to supply software for Lego.

There were signs of a revival in shares of **Gaskell** as they rebounded 44p to 416½p. The company has been prompted to say that it knows of no reason for the recent fall in the price which did not reflect its current trading performance.

Short covering put some pep back *into* **Associated British Foods**, which ended the session 30p dearer at 558p as more than 2.5 million shares changed hands.

There seemed to be no stopping this week's high flyer — **Desire Petroleum** — which touched 495p before closing 1p firmer at 415p, stretching the lead on the week to 239½p. The company is currently drilling for oil offshore of the Falkland Islands and initial signs are encouraging. The company's next-door neighbour, Amerada Hess, the US oil company, is reckoned to *have already struck it rich.*

One company which will be watching events at Desire closely is **Greenwich Resources**, 1½p cheaper at 36½p. It has a 13 per cent stake in Desire. **Westmount Energy**, which also has a stake in *Desire, firmed 10p to 245p.*

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices were able to extend this week's gains after ignoring the upward revision in the first-quarter GDP. Brokers were encouraged by the move and said it confirmed that recent *inflation numbers had given* the wrong impression of the economy.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose £0.16 to £108.54, while among conventional issues Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 finished £0.12 up at £110.27.

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares turned negative in morning trading, dragged down by a weak technology sector. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 36.86 points at 9,095.51.

Internet Technology rose 27½p to 132½p. Its US associate Wave Systems has seen its price double to $4.25 in just three weeks. Wave produces software packages that secure messages and packages sent via the Internet. This sort of technology is proving popular in the US, and Internet has the distribution rights in Europe.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Desire Petroleum	415p	+239½p	Falklands prospects
Greenwich Resources	36½p	+15¾p	Stake in Desire
Iceland Group	257p	+29½p	Like-for-like sales up 14%
Pearson	£10.63	+117p	Simon & Schuster acquisition
Majestic Wines	475p	+60p	Jim Slater share tip
Misys	£33.80p	+255p	Profits warning
Robert Walters	529½p	+41p	Killik recommendation
EIS Group	506½p	+160½p	TI Group agreed bid
Next	540p	+58p	Problems resolved

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9095.51 (-36.86)
S&P Composite 1109.84 (-4.90)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 15801.65 (-43.60)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9555.98 (-114.47)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 1194.41 (+0.21)

Sydney:
AO 2725.90 (-7.60)

Frankfurt:
DAX 5564.21 (+53.23)

Singapore:
Straits 1313.67 (-5.98)

Brussels:
General 19249.41 (+72.13)

Paris:
CAC-40 4049.78 (+1.86)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1602.50 (+14.10)

London:
FT 30 3688.9 (+5.2)
FTSE 100 5955.6 (+20.0)
FTSE 250 5897.8 (+43.3)
FTSE 350 2897.4 (+11.9)
FTSE Eurotop 100 2821.73 (+10.07)
FTSE All-Share 2833.31 (+11.33)
FTSE Non Financials 2869.48 (+11.71)
FTSE Fixed Interest 142.39 (+0.26)
FTSE Govt Secs 104.57 (+0.03)
Bargains 62850
SEAQ Volume 883.6m
US$ 1.6329 (+0.0007)
German Mark 2.8697 (+0.0006)
Exchange Index 102.5 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£ECU 1.4708
£SDR 1.2103
RPI 162.6 Apr (4.0%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 160.4 Apr (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ambient Media	92½	...
Ambishus Pub Co	235	...
Ascot B	61	...
BTR Red Prf B	38	...
Baronsmead VCT 2	87½	...
Captain OM Watts (4)	5½	...
Desire Petroleum	415	+ 1
Dimension Res Wrts	9½	...
Dimension Resources	27	...
Do Warrants	1¼	...
Elderstreet Dwng VCT	95	...
Eskmuir Properties	232½	+ 4
GRE Red Prf B	20	+ 1½
ICM Computer	287	+ 26½
Inter-Alliance	397½	+ 5
JWE Telecom	135	+ 19½
Lonrho Africa	84½	- ½
Matalan	278½	+ 3
Pennine Dwng VCT	100	...
Taiwan IT GDR	140½	...
Taylor & Francis	241½	- 3½
Thomson Travel	193½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ask Central n/p (350)	90	- 7½
Avocet Mining n/p (60)	1¼	...
Guinness Pt n/p (20)	12	...
John Lusty n/p (10)	1½	...
Magnum Pwr n/p (12)	3½	...
Nrd Ang Ed n/p (350)	39	- 3½
Proteus Intl n/p (45)	3½	+ ½
Silver Shield n/p (1)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Titon 120p (+20p)
Trealt 150p (+19p)
Masthead 126½p (+16p)
Innovative Tech 122½p (+14p)
Gaskell 416½p (+44p)
Yorklyde 110p (+11½p)
ML Labs 111p (+11½p)
Kiln Capital 167½p (+10p)
Limit 203½p (+12p)

FALLS:
Ionica Group 36p (-49p)
REA 175p (-10p)
Danka Bus Sys 273½p (-14p)
Porvair 330p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Too costly to prescribe

IF THE logic of drug company mergers means anything, Zeneca is looking uncomfortably small if it wants to remain independent. Having said that it is hard to argue with *its buoyant profit potential in the short and* medium term. Provided, that is, that sterling follows the advice of the sages and continues to retreat from its peak. Even a DM2.87 pound, it seems, would cut pre-tax profits by a tenth, again thwarting the target of 15 per cent like-for-like growth.

The pipeline of new drugs, or those building up sales as they gain approval round the world, makes the board's confidence in its underlying growth target understandable. Zomig, an treatment for acute migraine, looks promising and Zeneca's aim for leadership in cancer chemotherapy is backed by a flow of new treatments. Unsurprisingly the management pipeline is flowing smoothly too, at the expense of losing an independent chairman. Not that this seemed to make much odds in the Glaxo/SmithKline affair.

The drawback for potential investors in Zeneca is, however, neither corporate governance nor even sterling. It is the runaway share price. At £25.30, Zeneca is selling at 33 times 1997 earnings and 28.5 times 1998 earnings if they rise by 15 per cent, which cannot be a foregone conclusion. And if anyone is still interested, the net dividend yield is just 1.5 per cent. Good as Zeneca's prospects are, this is a takeover rating, some way ahead of events. And Zeneca is anxious not to be taken over. No wonder the shares have been teetering ominously for a couple of months. Unless the whole market turns skyward, there seems little to stop them falling.

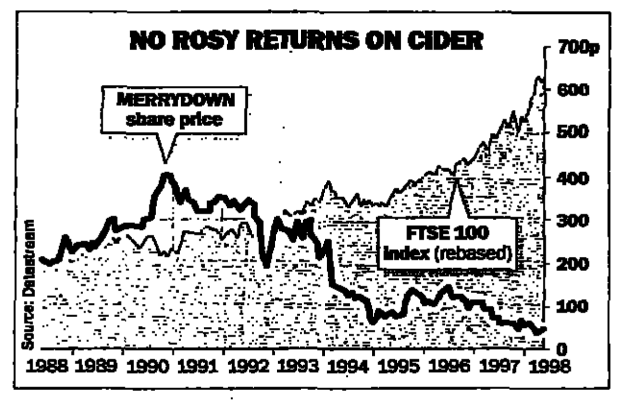
Merrydown

MERRYDOWN'S recent history has been enough to drive all but those with the strongest stomachs to drink. The collapse of takeover talks with an unnamed suitor in February appeared to be the final straw. Until three weeks ago several institutional shareholders were planning to cut their losses and run.

It is a measure of the quality of the wide-ranging restructuring unveiled yesterday that all those institutions have now decided to stay put, and that the share offer ended up being oversubscribed. The £7 million being raised may not sound like much, but that is £2 million more than the company's market value before the announcement and should be enough to get the cidermaker through its immediate troubles. It was also a *sine qua non* if the company was to survive as it was in breach of several banking covenants.

The new board looks able to push through necessary changes, and the focus on just two products — Merrydown cider and Shloër — will be rigidly adhered to until the group is firmly on the road to recovery.

The big imponderable is the cider market itself. The woes of rivals Bulmer and Matthew Clark suggest that the industry is in disarray. But if the new Merrydown board can provide some effective marketing to go with the sensible distribution and packaging alliances unveiled yesterday, there is no reason why it should not be a successful niche player.



Biocompatibles

THE scale of the problems at Biocompatibles International can be judged by the collapse in its share price, from more than £14 last year to a few pence above £1.40 — even more precipitous than the fall at British Biotech.

*Biocompatibles' body-*friendly coating still seems to have innumerable potential applications. But its attempts to commercialise its technology have badly exposed the limitations of small companies with big ideas.

Alastair Taylor, the chief executive who left in February, gave the impression that the mighty Johnson & Johnson was falling over itself for rights to distribute Biocompatibles' blood vessel supports.

He was badly wrong, but since he left many more fundamental problems have emerged. Incredibly, manufacturing problems meant that less than one in ten of the devices made were of acceptable quality. Distribution strategy was a mess and sales *projections* were *hopelessly* optimistic. US sales of Proclear contact lenses were slow because consumers found them uncomfortable. Meanwhile, operating expenses ballooned to £32 million loss to leave Bio*compatibles with a huge loss* and little remaining money.

Much chastened, the group has secured its future for the next 18 months with a costly fund-raising. The short-dated warrants, with an exercise price 50p above the 130p placing price, suggest Biocompatibles expects a sharp recovery. That might make the shares, at 147½p, seem attractive but they are strictly a punt.

St Ives

TAKEOVERS, it seems, *is* the only way of prizing any value from the moribund paper, packaging and printing sector. The industry still suffers from chronic overcapacity, and the strong pound has compounded the difficulties with a steady flow of cheap overseas imports. To compete, they need faster machinery — which costs the kind of money few have.

The result: a bombed-out sector which has underperformed the FTSE All-Share *index by 16 per cent in the last* 12 months.

St Ives is better placed than most. Its chosen areas — magazines, books and security printing — require vastly expensive equipment which discourages UK competitors from starting up.

Yesterday's acquisition of Hunters Armley cements its postion as Britain's largest name in magazine and newspaper inserts — and makes it the only company who can offer nationwide coverage in the direct reponse sector.

St Ives' virtues are not lost on the City but its peers look much more vulnerable. To make money in the sector, investors must ask who will pounce next, and where.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

1127-1113	Jul	1227-1218
1144-1143	Sep	1240-1227
1165-1163	Dec	unq
1182-1180		
1201-1195		
1212-1205		Volume: 3460

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

2000-1995	Jan	unq
1879-1877	Mar	unq
1820 BID	May	1690-1665
1785 BID		Volume: 5301

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

	Mar	264.0-63.5
5	May	267.0-66.0
258.5-58.0	Aug	271.0-70.0
257.0-56.5	Oct	274.0-73.0
259.8-58.6		Volume: 492

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Fatstock prices at representative markets on May 21

	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
	65.59	128.95	84.38
	-4.69	-11.48	-1.49
	65.59	128.95	82.50
	-4.69	-11.45	-3.22
	-26.0	+16.0	-19.0
	unq	129.01	89.39
		-11.88	-0.40
		-2.0	+4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.30	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Jul)	13.90	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Aug)	14.20	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	14.70	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	15.25	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	154 (+1)	155 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	121 (n/c)	123 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	63 (n/c)	65 (n/c)
Naphtha	133 (n/c)	135 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jun 123.25-23.50 Sep 133.00-33.25
Jul 136.00-26.25 Oct 136.75-37.00
Aug 129.50-29.75 Vol: 15555

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jul 13.90-13.91 Oct 14.78-14.82
Aug 14.19-14.20 Nov 15.04-15.09
Sep 14.52 SLR Vol: 25842

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	74.50	May	75.00
Jul	75.00	Sep	72.75
Sep	76.25	Nov	74.75
Nov	78.25	Jan	76.75
Jan	80.25	Mar	78.75
Volume: 202		Volume: 4	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Jun	unq	182.0
Nov		80.0
Mar		122.0
		Volume: 34

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jun 50.75-51.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 98	—	—	950
Jun 98	—	—	895
Jul 98	—	—	880
Oct 98	995	990	990
Vol: 10 lots			Open interest: 1306

Index 966 -4

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1686.0-1687.0	1703.0-1704.0	1523950
Lead ($/tonne)	559.00-560.00	569.50-570.50	167025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1048.5-1049.0	1073.0-1074.0	430600
Tin ($/tonne)	5895.0-5900.0	5850.0-5855.0	46645
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1375.0-1376.0	1400.0-1401.0	1758175
Nickel ($/tonne)	4805.0-4810.0	4860.0-4865.0	95676

LIFFE OPTIONS

Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
14½	23	27	7	13	15
7	14½	18½	18½	23½	26
81½	120½	154	34	68	85
55	95½	129½	58½	92½	109½
51½	86	107	35½	62	73
29½	63	83	63½	88½	98½
38	65	74	15	30	40
14½	40½	50	42	56	66
40	64	82	19	32	41½
16	39½	57½	46	58	66½
39½	59	76½	21½	40	49½
18½	40	54½	50½	70	77½
137	199	246½	34½	81½	106
77½	148	196½	76	129	154
85	99	—	44½	60½	—
50	83	98	60	75½	97
47	79½	98	42	56½	69½
27½	59½	75½	71	85	97
56½	81½	96	16½	31	41½
28	55½	71½	38½	54½	65½
54	86½	106	32	60½	69½
31½	63½	81½	59	87	95
7½	12	16	11½	16	19
1½	6	9	27	29½	32
42½	70	89½	34½	57	66½
22½	51	67½	64	84	93
85½	128	157	41½	76	88
80	103½	132	58	100½	112½
94½	183	215	79	139	157½
54½	119	168½	137½	195	212
40	208½	256½	66½	127	151
90	160	208½	118	168	201½
85	90	111	15½	36½	42
36	63	85	36½	55½	65
32	119	151	33	65	80½
54½	95	125½	56½	89	104½
17	91½	111	20	39	50
59½	85	84½	44	63	73
8½	59½	72	14	26½	29½
4½	36½	47	38½	47½	54
6	49	64	32	43	54½
1	30	45½	66	74½	85
1½	115	146	45	80	98
	90	121½	71	105	123
7½	70½	83	17	31½	34
1½	46½	58	39½	52	58½
	96½	—	16	33	—
½	66	—	40½	59½	—
	84½	104	19	35	44
½	60	80	42	59½	68
	38½	44½	24½	32½	39½
2	25	32½	44½	51	57½
	58½	69	11	23½	26½
	36½	48½	27½	39½	45
	53½	63	6	15½	20
	31	41½	21½	32½	38
	105½	126	19	39½	51
	88	103	39	62	75½

		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
(*792)	800	65½	96½	125½	62	83½	103½
Thames W	950	49½	72	94½	41½	55	65
(*962)	1000	27½	53	72	72	84	93½
Vodafone	600	67½	97½	115	16	36½	46
(*648½)	650	40	73	91	36	59½	70
Woolwich	354	20½	40½	—	18	28	—
(*366)	384	8½	28	—	36	44½	—
Zeneca	2500	137½	233	308	99½	163½	198½
(*2513)	2600	91	182½	255½	154	213	249½

	Series	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Puts Aug	Puts Nov	Puts Feb
BTR	201	18½	25½	—	11½	18	—
(*205½)	236	8½	15½	—	26½	31½	—
Blue Circ	360	45	54½	61	12½	23½	27
(*386)	390	28½	39	46½	25½	38	42
Br Aero	500	45	66½	76½	25½	38½	47½
(*511½)	525	33	54½	—	38½	49½	—
Bt Telcom	600	66	78	92	18½	29	35½
(*641)	650	37½	51½	66½	41	52½	59½
Cadbury	900	80	107½	130	31	44½	56
(*935½)	950	52½	82	105	54	68	80
Carlton Cms	500	46	59½	73	24½	32	39
(*516)	550	24½	38½	50	51	59	66
Diageo	729	59½	—	—	44½	—	—
(*730½)	787	35	—	—	80	—	—
Energy Gp	800	43½	44½	—	—	1½	—
(*842½)	850	1	4	—	12	12	—
Gallaher	300	25½	33	39	14	24½	29½
(*307½)	330	13	19½	26½	31	42	46½
GEC	500	47½	62½	76½	24½	38	47
(*518½)	550	25½	40½	54	52	65½	74
Hanson	360	24	34	42½	16	24½	27
(*363)	390	11	20	29	34½	41	43½
Imp Tob	420	46½	59	63½	9	14½	23
(*458½)	460	24	36½	42	24½	31½	41½
Kingfshr	1050	94½	127	156	38½	57	71
(*1089)	1100	68	101½	130	61	80½	95
Lasmo	280	22	32	38	13½	16	18½
(*288½)	300	12½	21½	28	24	26	29½
Ladbroke	330	13	43½	53	15½	24	29½
(*342½)	360	18½	29½	38½	31½	39½	45
Lucasvar	260	30½	40½	45½	10	15½	19
(*278)	280	19	30	36	19	24½	28½
P&O	850	55	77	95½	32½	48	58
(*863)	900	31	53	71	58	74½	84
Prudentl	800	81	107½	132	39½	56	69½
(*831)	850	56	83	108	64	80½	94½
Rio Tinto	800	66½	90½	110½	36	58	66½
(*816)	850	43	66½	85½	62½	84½	91½
Redland	330	16	—	—	—	—	—
(*345)	360	½	—	—	15½	—	—
R-Royce	280	35	44½	52½	11½	17	21½
(*298½)	300	24	34½	43	19	26	31½
Tesco	550	45	57½	72	31½	39	47
(*555)	600	24½	37½	50	58½	67½	74½
Utd Bisc	260	38½	33	39	5½	12	15
(*277)	280	17	22	28½	14	21	24½

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
BG	330	19	33½	43½	5½	14	21
(*342½)	360	5½	19	29	19	29½	36
BSkyB	420	24½	43	55½	10½	25½	34
(*434)	460	7	25½	38	31½	46½	54½
Br Bio	50	10	13	17½	3½	7	10
(*54½)	60	6	8½	14½	8½	13	15½
Centrica	[illegible]	11	15½	19	1	3½	4
(*99½)	100	4½	9½	13½	4½	7	8
Dixons	550	41	62	79½	6	22½	31½
(*583)	600	12	37	54½	26	46½	54
EMI	500	40	60½	77	14	36	42½
(*523)	550	17	38½	54½	38½	64	70
Granada	1100	36½	80½	108	26½	57	72½
(*1104)	1150	16	58	83	56	84½	98
GUS	850	33½	72½	90	19	41½	58
(*863½)	900	12½	48	66	47	67½	84
Lloyds TSB	850	61	102	129	15½	48½	63½
(*892)	900	32	77½	105	36½	73	88½
Lonrho	288	37	—	—	3½	14½	—
(*308)	321	8½	21½	—	18½	32	—
Norwich	420	36½	58	70	4½	18	25½
(*448½)	460	14	36	50½	20	36	44½
Orange	420	29	52½	68½	10½	26	34
(*437½)	460	11	34½	49½	31½	47	54½
Railtrck	1200	60	112½	153½	34½	66½	96
(*1227½)	1250	33½	87	129	59½	91	120½
Scot Pwr	500	41	58½	75	7	22	30
(*538½)	550	10½	36½	50	32	47	55
Tarmac	120	10½	15½	17	1½	4	7
(*129½)	130	3½	9½	11½	5½	9	11½
Tomkins	330	32	41½	47½	1	10	13½
(*359½)	360	11	23	30½	9½	22	26½
Unilever	650	41	71	82½	9½	29½	34½
(*677)	700	15½	46½	57	33½	53½	58

May 22 Total: 13487 Calls: 5871 Puts: 7616

FTSE INDEX (*5927)

Strike	Calls Jun	Calls Jul	Calls Aug	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Jul	Puts Aug	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
5750	268½	343	406½	464½	—	71½	119½	181	207½	—
5800	230½	306½	376½	435½	596½	84	136½	200	228	308½
5850	194	276½	347	406	—	99	156½	219	248½	—
5900	163½	247	317	376½	530	120	177	238	269	346½
5950	133	218	287	346½	—	138½	198	258	290	—
6000	106	188½	257½	316½	465½	163	219½	278½	311	386½
6050	84	165	232½	288½	—	191½	247½	304½	334½	—
6100	62	140	211	266	407½	222½	273½	332½	361½	433½

Calls: [illegible] Puts: 319 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 98	108.30	108.63	108.30	108.54	65200
Previous open interest 2164	Sep 98	108.58	108.80	108.58	108.77	2880
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 98	107.32	107.47	107.25	107.41	51364
Previous open interest 143881	Sep 98	106.88	107.00	106.88	107.00	2265
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98	102.75	102.84	102.72	102.80	424
Previous open interest 9000	Sep 98	104.20	104.20	104.20	104.20	20
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 98	118.90	119.08	118.83	118.98	15172
Previous open interest 137161	Sep 98	119.48	119.48	119.40	119.39	1200
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 98	133.22	133.29	133.18	133.28	1718
	Sep 98	133.30	133.25	133.18	133.25	825
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.510	92.520	92.490	92.490	7449
	Sep 98	92.620	92.640	92.600	92.610	10478
Previous open interest 928314	Dec 98	92.780	92.800	92.760	92.770	12660
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 98	96.360	96.365	96.355	96.360	35951
Previous open interest 2393705	Sep 98	96.215	96.220	96.195	96.210	27381
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 98	95.130	95.140	95.110	95.130	12433
Previous open interest 920465	Sep 98	95.730	95.740	95.700	95.720	8453
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 98	98.280	98.320	98.260	98.310	7008
Previous open interest 164654	Sep 98	98.090	98.140	98.090	98.130	5947
Three Mth ECU	Jun 98	95.750	95.750	95.750	95.750	50
Previous open interest 46538	Jul 98				95.750	0
FTSE 100	Jun 98	5952.0	5978.0	5922.0	5947.0	14308
Previous open interest 169555	Sep 98	6031.0	6032.0	6007.0	6024.0	800

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 3 Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7⅛; 3 mth 7⅛. Sell: 2 mth 6⅞; 3 mth: 6⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates	7⅞-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝
Interbank	7⅞-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝

Overnight: open 7¼, close 4.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	7⅝	n/a	7½	7⅝	7⅝
Sterling CDs	7⅜-7⅛	7⅝-7⅝	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7⅝
Dollar CDs	5.56	n/a	5.58	5.65	5.80
Building Society CDs	7⅝-7⅝	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £655m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.24% received: 70%: Last week: £96.245% received: 24%: Avge rate: £7.0281% last wk £7.0197%: Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝	5¾-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3⅝	4-3
French Franc:	3½-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3⅝	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	1½-1⅛	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1⅝	1½-½
Yen:	½-¼	½-⅜	⅝-⅜	½-¼	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $300.10-300.40 Close: $300.10-300.60 High: $301.00-301.50 Low: $299.80-300.30 AM: $300.70 PM: $299.80

Krugerrand: $301.00-303.00 (£184 50-186.50)

Platinum: $379.00 (£232.25) Silver: $5.345 (£3.265) Palladium: $352.00 (£215.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2297-3.2419	3.2341-3.2365	1½-1pr	3½-3pr
Brussels	59.130-59.370	59.170-59.265	23-19pr	59-53pr
Copenhagen	10.918-10.968	10.937-10.946	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Dublin	1.1373-1.1454	1.1399-1.1420	13-8pr	38-30pr
Frankfurt	2.8658-2.8768	2.8695-2.8721	1-¾pr	2½-2¼pr
Lisbon	293.51-294.66	293.81-294.12	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Madrid	243.48-244.43	243.83-244.03	73-63pr	197-180pr
Milan	2829.3-2832.8	2829.3-2832.8	59-45pr	176-155pr
Montreal	2.3658-2.3709	2.3683-2.3703	0.57-0.52pr	1.01-0.93pr
New York	1.6308-1.6340	1.6322-1.6340	0.278-0.257pr	0.725-0.695pr
Oslo	12.061-12.155	12.096-12.110	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Paris	9.6090-9.6500	9.6235-9.6314	3½-3¼pr	9½-9¼pr
Stockholm	12.484-12.568	12.553-12.568	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Tokyo	230.84-221.82	221.57-221.79	1½-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr
Vienna	20.164-20.247	20.192-20.211	½-¼pr	2-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3853-2.3980	2.3877-2.3905	1½-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5810-1.5835
Austria	12.36-12.37
Belgium (Com)	36.23-36.27
Canada	1.4487-1.4492
Denmark	6.6940-6.6960
France	5.8915-5.8935
Germany	1.7570-1.7575
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Ireland	1.4306-1.4326
Italy	1732.0-1732.5
Japan	135.55-135.60
Malaysia	3.7875-3.7975
Netherlands	1.9796-1.9803
Norway	7.4035-7.4045
Portugal	179.90-180.00
Singapore	1.6350-1.6360
Spain	149.35-149.40
Sweden	7.6804-7.6854
Switzerland	1.4614-1.4619

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6333-1.6360
Australia dollar	2.5845-2.5881
Bahrain dinar	0.607-0.621
Brazil real*	1.8727-1.8756
China yuan	13.349-13.658
Cyprus pound	0.8365-0.8565
Finland markka	8.640-8.789
Greece drachma	488.25-500.35
Hong Kong dollar	12.6540-12.6633
India rupee	65.48-66.98
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.492-0.505
Malaysia ringgit	6.1947-6.2107
New Zealand dollar	3.0434-3.0493
Pakistan rupee	70.25 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8625-5.9995
Singapore dollar	2.6706-2.6739
S Africa rand (com)	8.191-8.378
U A E dirham	5.9175-6.0555

Barclays Treasury • *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	903	LASMO	2,592
ASDA Gp	7,873	Legal & Gn	1,909
Abbey Ntl	1,286	Lloyds TSB	7,862
Allied Dom	1,527	LucasVarity	5,096
Allnce & Leic	1,099	Marks Spr	5,432
Amvescap	8,138	Nat Grid	1,620
AB Foods	2,512	Nat Power	5,522
Bk of Scot	2,894	NatWst Bk	1,726
BAA	5,621	Next	2,328
Barclays	2,462	Norwich Un	3,210
Bass	3,141	Nycomed Amr	307
BAT Inds	9,233	Orange	1,176
BG	9,128	P & O	2,575
Billiton	2,126	Pearson	1,112
Blue Circle	4,196	PowerGen	1,537
BOC	1,538	Prudential	3,274
Boots	1,475	Railtrack	1,481
BAe	2,652	Rank Group	3,536
BA	3,530	Reckitt Col	512
Brit Energy	2,244	Reed Intl	5,812
Br Land	965	Rentokil	6,074
BP	6,367	*Reuters*	4,879
Brit Steel	4,537	Rio Tinto	1,231
BSkyB	1,278	Rolls Royce	6,208
BT	6,233	Royal & Sun	3,208
BTR	4,310	Royal Bk Sct	2,199
Cable Wire	3,435	Safeway	4,018
Cadbury	2,522	Sainsbury	3,540
Carlton Cms	1,530	Schroders	70
Centrica	9,455	Scot & New	1,268
Cm Union	1,664	Scot Power	3,677
Compass Gp	3,229	Svrn Trent	467
Diageo	3,852	Shell Trans	10,504
EMI	5,283	Siebe	3,238
Energy Gp	1,945	Smiths Ind	915
Enterpr Oil	790	SmKl Bch	15,673
Gen Acc	504	Std Chartd	1,655
Gen Elec	3,535	Sun Life	448
GKN	1,179	Tesco	3,239
Glaxo Well	4,012	Thames W	326
Granada	2,030	Tomkins	1,168
GUS	1,495	Unilever	8,578
GRE	856	Utd News	1,017
Hays	520	Utd Utilities	1807
ICI	1,893	Vodafone	8,724
Kingfisher	1,455	Whitbread	1,683
HSBC	2,218	Williams	7,301
Halifax	4,870	Wolseley	2,777
Ladbroke	2,169	Woolwich	2,759
Land Secs	2,435	Zeneca	1,029

WALL STREET

	May 22 midday	May 21 close
AMP Inc	36⅛	36¼
AMR Corp	148½	146⅞
AT & T	58½	59½
Abbott Labs	75⅛	75½
Advanced Micro	20½	20⅛
Aetna Life	80⅝	80½
Ahmanson (HF)	81⅛	82¼
Air Prod & Chem	88½	88⅞
AirTouch Comm	49½	49½
Albertson's	45⅞	45½
Alcan Aluminm	30½	30¼
Allied Signal	42⅞	43⅞
Alum Co of Am	71⅝	71½
Amerada Hess	55	55⅛
AEP	45⅛	45½
Amer Express	104½	105⅛
Amer Genl Corp	69½	68½
Amer Home Pr	49¼	49⅞
Amer Intl	127⅛	128½
Amer Online	85¼	87⅛
Amer Stores	26⅛	26¼
Amer Standard	46⅞	46½
Ameritech	44⅞	44½
Amgen	65⅞	61⅞
Amoco	41½	42
Andrew Corp	21⅞	22½
Anheuser-Busch	46½	46⅛
Apple Computer	27⅞	28¼
Archer Daniels	19¼	19⅞
Armco	6½	6⅛
Armstrng Wrld	86¼	86⅞
Asarco	24	24½
Atl Richfield	78⅞	78⅛
Atmel Corp	15⅛	15⅞
Auto Data Pro	64⅞	65½
Avery Dennison	50⅛	50¼
Avon Products	83⅞	83⅛
Baker Hughes	36½	36⅛
Baltim Gas & El	29⅞	29¼
Banc One	58½	58⅞
BankAmerica	84⅞	85⅛
Bank of NY	61⅛	60⅞
Bankers Tr Crp	131⅞	133⅛
Bausch & Lomb	49⅛	49⅞
Baxter Intl	57¼	58
Bectn Dicksn	71⅞	72⅛
Bell Atlantic	93¼	92⅞
BellSouth	68⅞	68⅛
Best Foods	57¼	57½
Black & Decker	57¼	57⅛
Block (H&R)	44½	43⅞
Boeing	48½	48⅛
Boise Cascade	36⅛	36⅛
Boston Scien	66⅞	68¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	110½	110½
Browning Ferris	35⅛	35⅛
Brunswick	31½	31¼
Burlington Nthn	101¼	102½
CMS Energy Corp	41⅞	41½
CSX	51	51½
CBS Corp	30⅞	31⅛
Campbell Soup	55⅛	55⅛
Carolina Pwr	40⅛	40½
Case Corp	61½	62⅛
Caterpillar	56½	60⅛
Central & SW	26⅛	26⅛
Champion Intl	52½	52¼
Chase Manhat	143½	143½
Chevron Corp	81	80¼
Chrysler	53⅞	53⅛
Chubb Corp	76½	76¼
Cigna Corp	70	70⅛
Citicorp	159¼	154½
Clorox	83½	83⅞
Coastal Corp	71	71½
Coca Cola	78⅞	79½
Coca Cola Ent	37¼	36⅛
Colgate-Palm	88½	89⅛
Columbia Energy	84⅛	83⅞
ColumbiaHCA	33½	33⅛
Compaq Comp	27⅞	28⅛
Comp Ass Intl	55¼	55½
Conagra	30½	30⅛
Cons Edison	42⅛	43
Cons Nat Gas	56	56⅛
Cooper Inds	67¼	67⅛
Corning Inc	40⅛	40½
Cwide Credit	46⅛	46½
Crestar Finl	58	59½
Crown Cork	50⅞	50⅛
Dana Corp	52½	53⅛
Dayton Hudson	46⅛	46⅛
Deere	52½	52⅛
Delta Air Lines	112⅞	111½
Deluxe Corp	33½	33½
Digital Equip	55½	56⅛
Dillard Dept St	41½	42½
Disney (Walt)	115½	115⅞
Dominion Res	38⅞	38⅞
Donnelley (RR)	45½	45½
Dover Corp	38½	38⅛
Dow Chemical	97⅛	96½
Dow Jones	47⅛	47
Dresser	47⅛	47½
Duke Energy	55½	55½
Dun & Bradstreet	33⅛	33¼
Du Pont	81½	81½
Eastman Chem	69⅛	69½
Eastman Kodak	70½	70
Eaton Corp	89⅛	89⅛

	May 22 midday	May 21 close
Edison Intl	28½	28½
Elect Data Sys	38⅛	38½
Emerson Elec	62¼	62⅞
Engelhard Corp	21⅛	21⅛
Enron Corp	50⅞	50½
Entergy	23½	23½
Ethyl Corp	7½	7½
Exxon	70⅞	70½
FDX Holding	65¼	65⅛
FMC Corp	74⅞	75½
FPL Group	59⅞	60⅛
Fifth Third Banc	50⅛	50⅞
Fleet Finl Grp	83	83⅞
Fluor Corp	46¼	46¼
Ford Motor	50¼	51⅛
Fort James	47⅞	48⅛
Fortune Brands	38¼	38⅞
Franklin Res	50	51⅞
GTE Corp	59⅛	58¼
Gannett	67¼	67⅞
Gap Inc Del	53½	52⅞
Gateway 2000	45½	46½
Gen Dynamics	48	48⅛
Gen Electric	85⅛	85⅞
Gen Mills	69⅛	69
Gen Motors	75⅛	74½
Gen Reinsurance	220⅞	222¼
Gen Signal	43	43
Genuine Parts	35⅛	35¼
Georgia Pac	72½	73¼
Gillette	118⅛	120½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	55½	55
Goodrich (BF)	51½	52½
Goodyear Tire	69⅛	70⅛
Great Lakes	46⅛	46¼
Halliburton	49⅛	49⅛
Harcourt General	56	55¼
Heinz (HJ)	55⅛	55⅞
Hercules	45¼	45⅛
Hershey Foods	70⅛	70⅛
Hewlett Packard	65½	64¼
Hilton Hotels	31⅛	32½
Home Depot	74¼	74⅛
Homestake Mng	12½	12¼
Honeywell	91¼	90½
Household Intl	137⅛	138½
Houston Inds	27½	27½
Humana	25½	26¼
Ikon Office	20¼	21¼
Illinois Tool	69⅛	69⅛
Illinova	27¼	28½
INCO	14⅞	15½
Ingersoll Rand	46½	46¼
Inland Steel	27⅛	27⅛
Intel Corp	74½	74½
IBM	122¼	123½
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	48¼
Intl Paper	51⅞	51⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	70⅛	70⅞
Kellogg	40¼	40¼
Kerr-McGee	64⅛	64½
Kimberly-Clark	50½	51½
Kmart	18⅞	19½
Knight-Ridder	56⅞	56⅞
Lilly (Eli)	66½	67⅛
Limited Inc	33¼	33⅛
Lincoln Nat	90⅞	91⅛
Litton	57⅞	58⅛
Liz Claiborne	49½	49½
Lockheed Martin	112½	112½
Louisiana Pac	21⅛	21⅛
MCI Comm	52½	51⅞
Manpower Inc	44⅛	44½
Marriott Intl	34½	34½
Marsh & McLnn	89½	90⅛
Masco Corp	58⅛	58½
May Dept St	64⅞	64⅞
Maytag Corp	51½	52
McDonalds	65⅛	65⅞
McGraw Hill	76½	77⅛
Mead Corp	34	34½
Meditrust Corp	28⅛	28½
Medtronic	51½	51
Mellon Bk	68⅞	68⅛
Merck Inc	118	118⅞
Mercury Fin	0½	0½
Merrill Lynch	92½	92½
Microsoft	85⅞	86½
Minnesota Mine	93½	94⅞
Mirage Resorts	21⅞	22⅛
Mobil Corp	78⅞	79
Monsanto	57	57½
Morgan (JP)	131⅞	131½
Motorola Inc	55⅛	55⅛
Mylan Labs	31½	31⅞
Natl Semi	16½	16⅛
Natl Service Ind	51⅞	52½
Navistar Int	33⅛	33⅛
NY Times A	72⅞	73½
Newmont Mng	27½	27½
Nike B	47¼	47½
NL Industries	20⅛	20½
Nordstrom	72⅞	75½
Norfolk Sthrn	33¼	33½
Nthn States Pwr	55½	55⅛
Norwest Corp	39½	40
Occidental Pet	28½	28½
Office Depot	29⅛	29⅛
Oracle	23⅛	24½
Oryx Energy Co	22½	22½

	May 22 midday	May 21 close
Owens Corning	38⅛	38⅛
PPG Industries	75⅛	75⅛
PMI Group	75⅞	75¼
PNC Bank	59⅛	59½
PP&L Res	21⅛	21⅛
Paccar Inc	56¼	56⅞
Pacificorp	22⅛	22⅛
Pac Enterprises	37½	37⅛
PaineWebber	44⅞	44½
Pall Corp	20⅛	20¼
Parker Hannifin	43⅛	43½
Penn Energy	26½	27¼
Penney (JC)	72½	72⅛
Pennzoil	59¼	60
Pepsico	40⅛	40⅛
Pfizer	105	109
Pharm & Upjhn	42⅛	42⅛
Phelps Dodge	61⅞	61⅞
Philip Morris	37½	37¼
Phillips Pet	50½	50¼
Pitney Bowes	48¼	49⅛
Polaroid	41½	41½
Procter & Gmbl	83	83½
Providian	65⅞	65⅞
Pub Serv E & G	32⅛	32¼
Quaker Oats	56⅞	56⅞
Ralston Purina	109½	108⅛
Raychem Corp	39½	40⅛
Raytheon B	56⅞	57⅛
Reebok Intl	29¼	29⅛
Reliastar Fin	43⅞	43⅛
Reynolds Metals	60¼	60⅞
Rockwell Intl	57½	57½
Rohm & Haas	113⅞	114⅛
Royal Dutch	56⅛	56⅛
Rubbermaid	32⅛	32⅞
SBC Comms	39½	39¼
Safeco Corp	47⅞	47¼
St Paul's Cos	43½	44
Sara Lee Corp	60½	60¼
Schering Plough	87¼	87⅞
Schlumberger	78½	79½
Seagram	45⅞	44½
Sears Roebuck	63⅛	62¼
Shell Trans	43⅞	44
Sherwin Wlms	33⅞	33½
Silicon Graphics	11½	11⅞
Snap-On-Tools	44⅞	45¼
Southern Co	25½	25½
Southtrust	43	42⅞
Sprint Corp	72⅞	71⅞
Stanley Works	47⅞	49¼
Starwood H & R	48¼	48⅞
Sun Company	41½	41½
Sun Microsys	40¼	40¼
Suntrust	79⅛	80⅞
Supervalu	41½	42⅛
Synovus Fin	23⅛	24⅛
Sysco Corp	23⅛	23⅞
TRW Inc	56⅞	56⅞
TIG Hldgs	23⅛	24
Tandy Corp	44⅞	45¼
Temple Inland	63½	64
Tenet Healthcare	36⅞	37½
Tenneco	41½	42
Texaco	58¼	59½
Texas Inst	54⅛	55⅛
Texas Utilities	38½	38⅞
Textron	75¼	76½
Thermo Elect	35⅛	35½
Time Warner	81½	82⅛
Times-Mirror A	63¼	64⅛
Timken	38⅞	39⅛
Torchmark	45	44½
Toys R Us	27⅛	27½
Transamerica	116⅛	116⅛
Travelers	63⅛	63½
Tribune	66½	65½
UST Inc	26¼	26⅛
US Bancorp	40	40½
UAL	80⅞	80⅛
Unitrin	69½	71½
US Inds	27⅞	27¼
US West Comm	52½	51½
US West Media	38½	39⅛
USAirways Group	67½	66¼
USX Marathon	34½	35¼
Unicom	33½	33½
Unilever NV	79½	78¼
Union Camp	58½	59¼
Union Carbide	51½	52½
Union Pacific	52½	53
Unisys Corp	24⅞	25
United Tech	95½	96½
Unocal Corp	36⅞	37⅛
VF Corp	53½	52½
Wal-Mart Stores	59¼	59¼
Warner-Lambert	200⅛	201⅛
Waste Mngmt	31½	31⅞
Wells Fargo	373½	376½
Weyerhaeuser	55	54½
Whirlpool	65½	66½
Whitman	22⅛	22
Winn Dixie	40¼	40½
Witco Corp	38¼	37⅞
Woolworth	20½	20⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	94⅞	94⅞
Xerox	109⅛	108
Xilinx Inc	41½	42⅞

NEWS

Ireland votes yes to peace

■ Voters in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic flocked to the polls in near-record numbers yesterday to give Good Friday's peace agreement their overwhelming backing.

The huge turnout in the North raised hopes of a substantial Unionist majority in favour. That would mean the Rev Ian Paisley and the agreement's other Unionist opponents stand little chance of winning enough seats in next month's elections to wreck Northern Ireland's new assembly ..... **Pages 1, 2**

Stately homes fall foul of Budget

■ Dozens of Britain's most famous stately homes may be forced to close their doors or sell off the family treasure because of the withdrawal of an obscure tax concession ..... **Pages 1, 23**

Envoy's contempt

The Saudi envoy dismissed a BBC *Panorama* programme about Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry as a "Hollywood production" ..... **Pages 1, 21**

Impotence peril

The global rush to embrace Viagra, the new impotence pill, appeared premature ..... **Page 1**

Teenager's troubles

Like millions of teenagers he had been teased, and briefly in trouble with the law ..... **Page 3**

Wild about Oscar

Two British film companies have discovered to their horror that they are in a race to release rival adaptations of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* ..... **Page 3**

Fame on display

Ken Livingstone, Anneka Rice and Steve Davis are out; Sean Connery, Naomi Campbell and Brad Pitt are showing their faces at Madame Tussaud's ..... **Page 11**

Patients' victory

Families who lost relatives to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from contaminated human growth hormone won their battle for compensation ..... **Page 13**

New cancer care

A British invention could revolutionise cancer care ..... **Page 14**

Sinatra in control

Frank Sinatra's will shows that the "Chairman of the Board" exercises an iron control over the family firm ..... **Page 16**

Indonesia 'failure'

Britons trapped in the Indonesian violence are furious at the British Embassy ..... **Page 18**
Weekend, Page 1

ITV's early goal

ITV scored an early goal against the BBC in the World Cup TV battle as it launched Baddiel and Skinner's new Fantasy Football show ..... **Page 19**

A tall tale of Chinese puzzles

■ This is the story of a condom machine salesman with a degree in Chinese from Harvard who impersonated a policeman in an attempt to get his mother off a speeding charge. John Redwood makes an appearance, but it does not end happily ..... **Page 1**



PETER BYRNE

The Cambridge Blues, the reigning champions, prepare for the British Association of Barbershop Singers' annual convention in Harrogate

NEWS FEATURES

Lifting the veil: Lucian Freud, generally regarded as Britain's greatest living artist, offers a glimpse into his tangled and fiercely protected private life in a new painting seen for the first time in *The Times* today ..... **Page 8**
Paradise regained: No signpost marks the side-road that leads to fabled Xanadu, the summer capital of Kublai Khan ..... **Page 17**
Arabian workers: Why does a woman go to work in Saudi Arabia? For money, is the answer. You offer a slice of your life for cash. It's a calculated deal ..... **Page 21**

FEATURES

Promises, Promises: Waiting lists have gone up and thousands of children are still taught in classes of more than 30 pupils ..... **Page 23**
Imperial overture: History can surely be faced with more composure than would be suggested by turned backs and whistles ..... **Page 23**
Xanadu revisited: Too many of these secret destinations of the mind turn out to be disappointments ..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Police numbers: Arts Council resignations ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: For those with a taste for hypocrisy and greed, nothing beats a good press row ..... **Page 22**
Dick Price: Now that the young British artists have been enshrined by the Establishment, what could possibly follow? ..... **Page 22**
Joanna Pitman: Crown Princess Masako arrived at the Japanese court with an independent spirit ..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Gordon Beningfield, countryside artist; **Donald Wise,** foreign correspondent . **Page 25**

BUSINESS

British Airways: BA is coming under fire from US regulators ..... **Page 27**
Thatcher: Baroness Thatcher has joined a hedge fund advisory board ..... **Page 28**
Mirror: Axel Springer left open the possibility of a Mirror Group bid ..... **Page 27**
Markets: The FTSE rose to 5955.6. Sterling rose to 102.5, rising to $1.6329 and to DM2.8697 ..... **Page 31**

WEEKEND MONEY

American Express is launching a card aimed at young consumers ..... **Page 62**

SPORT

Football: An injured Jamie Redknapp will miss the World Cup ..... **Page 33**
Cricket: England will need more solidity in the remaining one-day internationals against South Africa ..... **Page 40**
Golf: Michael Jonzon, of Sweden, took a one-stroke lead with a six-under-par 66 at the end of the first round of the Volvo PGA Championship ..... **Page 34**
Motor racing: Overtaking has become almost non-existent in Formula One at any circuit, let alone in Monaco ..... **Page 43**

SECTIONS

the times magazine

Greg Rusedski: on tough beginnings and happy endings ..... **Page 18**
Breaking the chain: the mission to buy slaves' freedom ..... **Page 28**
Lazy days: Kate Moss goes camping ..... **Page 42**
Twilight zones: on parties by candlelight ..... **Page 50**

metro

The big interview: No ordinary Joe ..... **Page 6**
Music: Tricky or treat — new albums ..... **Page 10**
Opera: What's new pussycat? ..... **Page 14**
Books: This year's winner of the Orange prize for women writers ..... **Page 16**
Listings: ..... **Pages 26-43**

WEEKEND

Rachel Biles: describes how she escaped from Jakarta with her two children ..... **Page 1**
Alan Hamilton: reports on his interview with Emperor Akihito ..... **Page 3**
Cover-ups: Sunkissed bodies under wraps **Page 5**
Whitbread race: Beer and burgers ahoy! ..... **Page 6**

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels

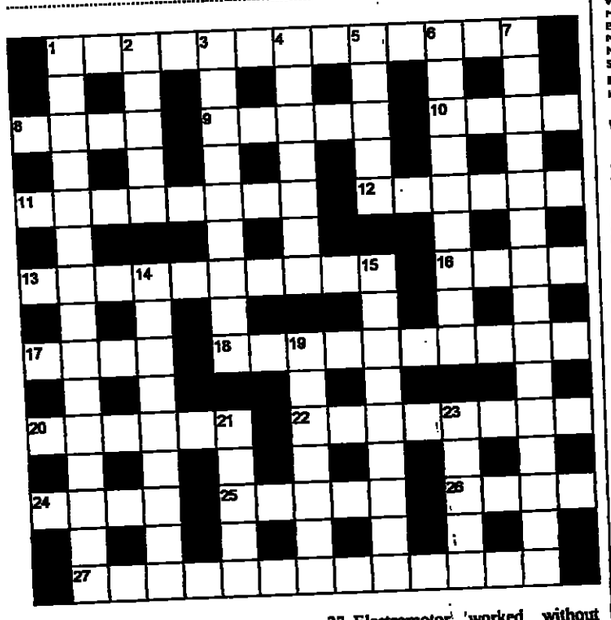
mgo

Melissa Joan Hart, star of Sabrina, tells all

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,799

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....



ACROSS

1 Contemporary dependent on those of little stature (2-2-3-6).
8 One gets benefit, though not old or unemployed (4).
9 Erect? Just the opposite, by the sound of it (5).
10 Team expressed unrestrained glee (4).
11 Player given terrible roasting (8).
12 Reliable, though at first impaired by neglect (6).
13 Grey place in the Yukon (10).
16 Ignoring the odds, Olga and Linda bet (4).
17 Labour organisation's turned tail (4).
18 Has replied in order to get post as a salesman (10).
20 Shrub of specified sort mother put in (6).
22 Insertion of a word like this by no means straightforward? (8).
24 The way I run a prison (4).
25 Flatter, truncated type of hill in America (5).
26 Some superb rigging in this vessel (4).
27 Electromotor 'worked without new zapper (6,7).

DOWN

1 Where the rudder is, not out in the open (5,3,7).
2 Greek character joining the volunteers (5).
3 The drains must be fixed, being befouled (9).
4 He turns out as, ultimately, the winner (7).
5 Out of place in record time (5).
6 Releases two articles in French about successful action (9).
7 This account is what shocks the beak (11,4).
14 Four-letter word from Peggy, upset about temperature (9).
15 There's always a place for putting a box, for example (9).
19 Pastiche not hard to rewrite as suitable for theatre (7).
21 Jack wearing belt as customary attire (5).
23 Composer using computer link with hesitation (5).

Times Two Crossword Weekend, page 18

Solution to Puzzle No 20793

W	I	S	H	B	O	N	E		G	L	O	O	M	Y
I		O		A		A		O		U		A		
S	Q	U	A	R	E	M	E	A	L		T	R	E	E
T		B		L		E		D		J		S		
F	O	R	B	I	D	D	E	N	F	R	U	I	T	
U		E		N		A		I		M		R		
L	I	T	H	E	L	Y		K	E	E	P	F	I	T
		T		O				L				R		
S	H	E	B	E	A	R		O	D	D	M	E	N	T
		A		O		N		A		I		E		A
	S	A	L	I	S	B	U	R	Y	P	L	A	I	N
		B		I		H		S		I		G		N
D	E	R	V		A	D	A	M	A	N	D	E	V	E
		E		I		R		A		T		N		R
U	N	M	A	S	K		U	N	M	O	R	T	H	Y

Solution to Puzzle No 20798

U	S	E	L	E	S	S		R	U	B	S	O	U	T
F		V		G		T		U		O		U		E
O	V	E	R	G	R	O	W	N		D	E	T	E	R
S		S		O		R		D		Y		S		R
		H	E	N	L	E	Y	R	E	G	A	T	T	A
S		A				M		Y		U		A		F
A	R	M	A	G	N	A	C		P	A	P	Y	R	I
S		O		N		S		R				R		I
H	A	C	K	L	E		S	T	U	D	F	A	R	M
W		O		D		I		R				N		A
I	G	N	O	M	I	N	I	O	U	S	L	Y		
N		I		E		D		N		I		B		S
D	Y	F	E	D		O	R	G	A	N	L	O	F	T
O		E		A		O		E		U		D		Y
W	A	R	B	L	E	R		R	E	S	T	Y	L	E

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *P M Stringer, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol; R Wilson, Nightingale Lane, London SW12; G Standeven, Hampton Wick, Surrey; W A Mariar, Woolhope, Hereford; R Rayfield, West Adderbury, Oxon.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 4.58 am — Sun sets: 8.57 pm
Moon sets 5.47 pm — Moon rises 4.05 am

New moon May 25

London 8.57 pm to 4.57 am
Bristol 9.07 pm to 5.07 am
Edinburgh 9.33 pm to 4.46 am
Manchester 9.15 pm to 4.56 am
Penzance 9.12 pm to 5.25 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 4.57 am — Sun sets: 8.58 pm
Moon sets 7.07 pm — Moon rises 4.37 am

New moon tomorrow

London 8.58 pm to 4.56 am
Bristol 9.08 pm to 5.06 am
Edinburgh 9.35 pm to 4.44 am
Manchester 9.17 pm to 4.55 am
Penzance 9.14 pm to 5.24 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	12:00	4.0	0:42	4.1
Avonmouth	5.38	12.5	6:08	12.6
Belfast	9.29	3.3	10:09	3.3
Cardiff	5.24	11.6	5:54	11.7
Devonport	4:01	5.2	4:37	5.3
Dover	9.39	8.3	10:01	8.5
Dublin	10:12	4.0	10:52	4.0
Falmouth	3.32	5.0	4:08	5.1
Greenock	11.13	3.3	11:36	3.2
Harwich	10:32	3.9	10:50	3.8
Holyhead	8:53	5.4	9.29	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	4:57	8.1	5.04	8.4
Ilfracombe	4.27	8.7	4:56	8.7
King's Lynn	5:04	6.1	5:08	6.4
Leith	1:00	5.2	1:15	5.3
Liverpool	9:48	9.1	10:21	9.1
London Bridge	12:39	7.0	0:59	6.9
Lowestoft	8.18	2.3	8:09	2.4
Margate	10:43	4.6	10:47	4.6
Milford Haven	4.40	6.5	5.11	6.6
Newquay	3.37	6.5	4:07	6.6
Oban	4:30	3.7	4:55	3.5
Penzance	3:03	5.2	3:34	5.2
Portland	5:00	1.7	5:36	1.9
Portsmouth	10:02	4.4	10:31	4.7
Shoreham	9:44	5.9	10:13	6.3
Southampton	9:19	4.3	9:50	4.6
Swansea	4:48	8.9	5:19	9.0
Tees	2:06	5.2	2:19	5.3
Weston-On-Nace	10:27	4.1	10:44	4.0

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Barbourne (Hereford and Worcester) 21C (70F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 0.10in; highest sunshine: Norwich, Norfolk, 14.4hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Northern and western Scotland will be cloudy with drizzle. A little drizzle is possible over the eastern hills in afternoon, but rest of Scotland will be mainly dry with sunny spells. Drizzle may also occur along northern coasts of Northern Ireland but inland and elsewhere around Britain it will be mainly dry with sunny spells and just a slight risk of a light shower turning up in places. Temperatures generally near to late May average.

☐ **London, SE England, Cent S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** sunny spells and slight risk of light shower. Light NW wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, Cent N England, NE England:** dry with sunny spells. Light NW wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** sunny breaks with risk of drizzle or light shower. Light to moderate NW wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** some sunny spells, mainly dry. Light to moderate NW wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland:** cloudy with drizzle in places. Moderate NW wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** rain. Light NW wind backing SW. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** drizzle on northern coasts but some sunshine inland. Light to moderate NW wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Irish Republic:** rather cloudy at first but sunny intervals developing. Wind light NW. Max 17C (63F)

☐ **Outlook:** rain in far north but mainly dry elsewhere with sunny spells. Turning unsettled from north on Monday and Tuesday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.3	0.01	13	55	c
Anglesey	11.5	-	16	61	s
Aspatria	5.3	-	16	61	b
Aviemore	2.2	0.01	14	57	c
Belfast	4.1	0.01	15	59	c
Birmingham	2.3	-	18	64	b
Bognor R	9.9	-	17	63	s
Bournem'th	6.3	-	17	63	s
Bristol	8.4	-	20	68	s
Buxton	4.9	-	16	61	s
Cardiff	X	-	19	66	c
Cleeton	13.3	-	14	57	s
Cleethorpes	10.9	-	14	57	s
Colwyn Bay	11.2	-	16	61	s
Cromer	13.7	-	13	55	s
Dunbar	4.5	-	19	66	b
Eastbourne	8.7	-	16	61	s
Edinburgh	6.9	0.01	19	66	b
Eskdalemuir	3.9	-	16	61	b
Exmouth	4.1	-	15	59	b
Falmouth	X				
Fishguard	9.7	-	13	55	s
Folkestone	X				
Glasgow	7.0	-	17	63	b
Guernsey	6.8	0.01	17	63	s
Hastings	9.1	-	16	61	s
Hayling I.	5.3	-	17	63	b
Heme Bay	X				
Hove	8.2	-	X	X	b
Hunstanton	9.7	-	13	55	s
Isle of Man	11.2	-	16	61	b
Isle-of-wight	5.7	-	16	61	b
Jersey	7.4	-	18	64	s
Kinloss	0.7	0.01	14	57	d

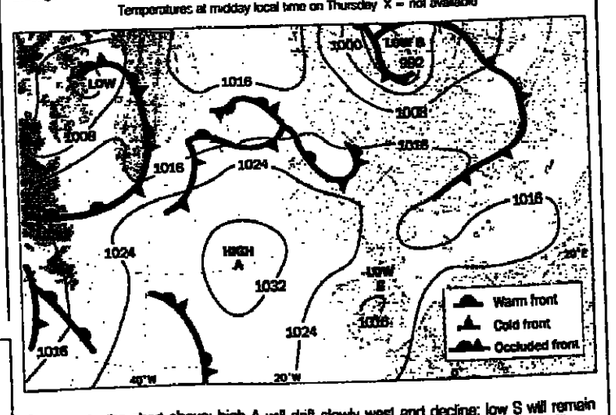
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Leeds	5.3	-	19	66	c
Lerwick	7.2	0.02	11	52	s
Leuchars	6.0	-	20	68	b
Llandrindod	11.8	-	17	63	s
London	7.3	0.01	17	63	b
Lowestoft	11.9	-	14	57	s
Manchester	3.5	-	17	63	b
Margate	10.5	-	18	64	s
Morecambe	11.3	-	17	63	s
Newcastle	7.2	-	17	63	b
Newquay	7.5	-	15	59	b
Norwich	14.4	-	18	64	b
Oxford	5.8	-	19	66	s
Penzance	X	-	19	66	b
Poole	5.2	-	19	66	b
Prestatyn	X				
Ross on Wye	7.5	-	20	68	b
Salcombe	3.2	-	15	59	b
Saunton Snd	8.5	-	18	64	s
Scarboro'	11.2	-	13	55	s
Shrewsbury	9.0	-	18	64	s
Skegness	11.4	-	13	55	s
Southend	X				
Southport	X				
Southsea	7.2	-	19	66	b
Stornoway	2.6	0.02	13	55	sh
Swanage	7.3	-	16	61	s
Teignmouth	3.9	-	18	64	s
Tenby	10.7	-	18	64	s
Three	4.5	0.01	14	57	d
Torquay	3.7	-	20	68	b
Tynemouth	X				
Weston s Mare	5.3	-	18	64	s
Weymouth	X				

ABROAD

Alaccio	26	79	s	Cologne	15	59	f	Madrid	21	70	f
Alicante	22	72	s	Corfu	22	72	f	Majorca	25	77	f
Alex'dria	22	72	s	C'phagn	9	48	f	Malaga	21	70	s
Algiers	21	70	c	Dublin	15	59	f	Malta	23	73	s
Amst'dm	16	61	f	Dubrovnik	19	66	f	Melb'rne	13	55	c
Athens	23	73	s	Faro	22	72	s	Mexico C	X		
B Aires	20	68	c	Florence	22	72	s	Miami	31	88	s
Bahrain	32	90	s	Frankfurt	18	64	s	Milan	26	79	f
Bangkok	34	93	f	Funchal	22	72	s	Montreal	15	59	f
Barbados	29	84	c	Geneva	22	72	f	Moscow	19	66	c
Barcelona	25	77	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	16	61	f
Beijing	22	72	f	Helsinki	12	54	s	N Delhi	40	104	s
Beirut	22	72	f	Hong K	25	77	f	N York	27	81	s
Belgrade	21	70	f	Innsbrck	19	66	f	Nairobi	X		
Berlin	13	55	f	Istanbul	15	59	f	Naples	23	73	s
Bermuda	25	77	f	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	21	70	f
Biarritz	17	63	d	Jo'burg	18	64	c	Oslo	10	50	r
Borde'x	26	79	f	L Angels	19	66	s	Paris	22	72	f
Brussels	13	55	c	L Palmas	23	73	s	Perth	21	70	c
Budapst	21	70	f	Le Tquet	16	64	f	Prague	11	52	f
Cairo	29	84	s	Lisbon	21	70	s	Reykjavik	9	48	d
Cape Tn	19	66	s	Locarno	21	70	f	Rhodes	20	68	s
Ch'church	11	52	X	Luxembg	15	59	f	Rio de J	25	77	f
Chicago	24	75	s	Luxor	40	104	s	Riyadh	37	99	s

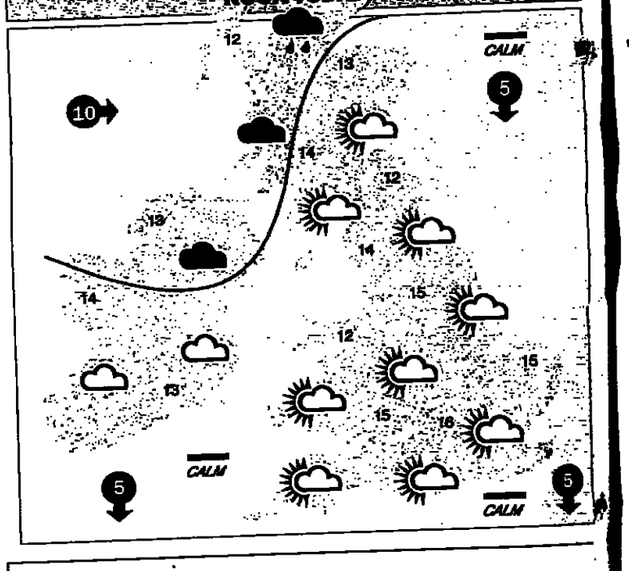
Rome	22	72	s	Stockhlm	7	45	c	Tunis	23	73	f
S Paulo	X			Strasb'rg	23	73	f	Valencia	16	61	f
Salzburg	20	68	c	Sydney	19	66	s	Vanc'ver	14	57	f
Santiago	15	59	c	Tangier	24	75	f	Venice	23	73	s
Seoul	31	88	s	Tel Aviv	24	75	f	Vienna	21	70	s
Sing'por	33	91	f	Tenerife	23	73	f	Warsaw	18	61	f
St'kholm	7	45	c	Tokyo	23	64	s	Wellington	X		
Stresb'rg	23	73	f	Toronto	15	59	s	Zurich	22	72	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart above: high A will drift slowly west and decline; low S will remain stationary with little change in central pressure; low B will move very little and fill

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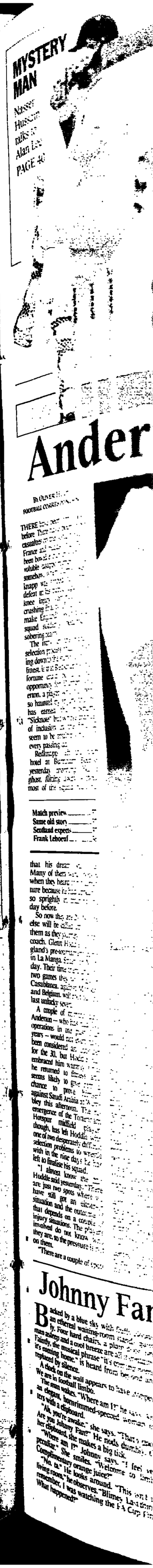
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MYSTERY MAN

Nasser Hussain talks to Alan Le...

PAGE 4...

Ander...

By Oliver ... Football Correspondent

THERE has ... before. There ... casualties ... France and ... been bo... voluble ... somehow. ... Knapp ... defeat ... knee ... crushing ... make ... squad ... sobering ...

The ... selection ... ing down ... fitness. ... fortune ... opportun... erton, a ... so haunted ... has earned ... "Sicknote" ... of inclusion ... seem to be ... every passing ... Redknapp ... hotel at ... yesterday ... ghost, flirting ... most of its ...

Match preview ...
Same old story ...
Scotland expects ...
Frank Lebouef ...

that his dream ... Many of them ... when they hear ... ture because ... so sprightly ... day before.

So now the ... else will be ... them as they ... coach. Glenn ... gland's pre-... in La Manga ... day. Their ... two games they ... Casablanca, ... and Belgium, will ... last unlucky seven.

A couple of ... Anderton – who ... operations in the ... years – would not ... been considered ... for the 30, but Hoddle ... embraced him warmly ... he returned to ... seems likely to ... chance to prove ... against Saudi Arabia ... bley this afternoon. The ... emergence of the Tottenham ... Hotspur midfield ... though, has left Hoddle ... one of two desperately difficult ... selection problems to wrestle ... with in the nine days he has ... left to finalise his squad.

"I almost know the ... Hoddle said yesterday. "There ... are just two spots where ... have still got an element ... situation and the outcome ... that depends on a couple of ... injury situations. The players ... involved do not know ... they are, so the pressure is ... on them.

"There are a couple of ...

Johnny Far...

Backed by a blue sky with ... an ethereal waiting-room ... ly. Four hard chairs, a plant ... man asleep and a cool breeze are ... Faintly, the musical phrase "It's ... it's coming home." is heard from ... replaced by silence.

A clock on the wall appears to ... We are in football limbo.

The man wakes. "Where am I?" he ... an elegant, tortoiseshell-specked ... lers with a clipboard.

"Ah, you're awake," she says. "That's ... Are you Johnny Farr?" He nods ... her clipboard, she makes a big tick.

"Where am I?" Johnny says. "I feel ... peculiar." She smiles. "Welcome to ... Complimentary orange juice?"

"No, ta." He looks around. "This ... living room," he observes. "Blimey. Last ... remember, I was watching the FA Cup ... What happened?"

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هكذا من الأصل



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BEST VALUE IN GYM SUBSCRIPTIONS
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REDKNAPP INJURY REDUCES HODDLE'S OPTIONS

Anderton may fit bill for England

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE have been omissions before. There have been other casualties on the long road to France and heads that have been bowed either in silent or voluble disappointment. But somehow, when Jamie Redknapp was forced to admit defeat in his battle against a knee injury yesterday, the crushing finality of failure to make England's World Cup squad suddenly became a sobering reality.

The irony, in the natural selection process that is coming down to the survival of the fittest, is that Redknapp's misfortune could be a golden opportunity for Darren Anderton, a player who has been so haunted by injury that he has earned the nickname "Sicknote", but whose chances of inclusion in the final 22 seem to be multiplying with every passing day.

Redknapp left the team hotel at Burnham Beeches yesterday morning like a ghost, flitting away without most of the squad realising that his dream was over. Many of them were shocked when they heard of his departure because he had appeared so sprightly in training the day before.

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So now they are 29. No one else will be called up to join them as they journey with the coach, Glenn Hoddle, to England's pre-tournament camp in La Manga, Spain, on Monday. Their time there and the two games they will play in Casablanca, against Morocco and Belgium, will root out the last unlucky seven.

A couple of months ago, Anderton — who has had five operations in the past four years — would not even have been considered an outsider for the 30, but Hoddle has embraced him warmly since he returned to fitness and seems likely to give him a chance to prove himself against Saudi Arabia at Wembley this afternoon. The re-emergence of the Tottenham Hotspur midfield player, though, has left Hoddle with one of two desperately difficult selection problems to wrestle with in the nine days he has left to finalise his squad.

"I almost know the 22," Hoddle said yesterday. "There are just two spots where we have still got an either-or situation and the outcome of that depends on a couple of injury situations. The players involved do not know who they are, so the pressure is not on them.

"There are a couple of spots still up for grabs and the first two games of the three we have got left will probably be used to see who is on top of their games. There is also an element of us not wanting to show our hand too much, but that has been made easier for me because I need to see if certain players can last for 90 minutes."

Through the forest of all these hints and trails, it seems that the only choices still facing Hoddle are in attack and on the right side of midfield. Ian Wright, the Arsenal forward, will probably partner Alan Shearer up front today and, if he proves that he has has put his five months of injury problems behind him, it is likely to mean the end of the road for either Dion Dublin or Les Ferdinand, and possibly both.

The other quandary concerns the competing claims of Anderton, Steve McManaman and Paul Merson. It is highly unlikely that Hoddle will take all three and Anderton's ability to play in the centre of midfield, too, seems to have put him out in front if he, too, can prove his fitness.

"To be honest, whenever I have come back from injury in the last couple of years, the fans at Spurs have been great to me," Anderton said. "You always get a few who think your heart is not in it, but people who see me and the way that I am know that is not true. There were times when I kept quiet even though I was feeling an injury because I did not want to get slaughtered again and I just ended up making things worse."

In the desperate search for clues to Hoddle's thinking, it seemed instructive yesterday that when he trawled through the list of midfield talents available to him as compensation for the loss of Redknapp, he mentioned Anderton's name high on his list and McManaman's not at all. It may have been a total irrelevance, but there were knowing winks all round.

To omit McManaman would be a drastic and negative step and an uncharacteristic risk for Hoddle to take. With Paul Gascoigne growing ever more fragile, Hoddle needs a deputy who can provide some of the same unpredictability. Anderton and Merson are both fine players but they cannot scare a defence with direct running and mazy dribbling like McManaman can. Even if he has fallen from favour somewhat, the omission of McManaman would leave Hoddle's creative cupboard worryingly bare.

"It is a difficult task," Hoddle said, "and I would be lying if I said it was not something I could do without." The more you wrestle with the McManaman-Anderton conundrum, the more you know how he feels.



Raising standards: Anderton has endured four injury-troubled years, but may now benefit from the misfortunes of others and win a World Cup place. Photograph: Michael Stephens

ON MONDAY



Part two of Danny Baker's interview with Gazza

WORLD CUP RIVALS?



D. GREEN ANDERTON

Appearances (and goals) since Euro 96
1996-97: Club: 19 (5).
Country: None.
1997-98: Club: 15 (0).
Country: (B International): 1 (0).
Total caps: 16



STEVE McMANAMAN

Appearances (and goals) since Euro 96
1996-97: Club: 51 (0).
Country: 3 (0).
1997-98: Club: 46 (12)
Country: 2 (0).
Total caps: 20

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Making your leisure time special

Johnny Fan and the raiders of football's lost souls

LYNNE TRUSS

Backed by a blue sky with fluffy clouds, an ethereal waiting-room stands quietly. Four hard chairs, a plain door, one man asleep and a cool breeze are all it contains. Faintly, the musical phrase "it's coming home, it's coming home," is heard from beyond and replaced by silence.

A clock on the wall appears to have stopped. We are in football limbo.

The man wakes. "Where am I?" he says. And an elegant, bornrimmed-specced woman enters with a clipboard.

"Ah, you're awake," she says. "That's good. Are you Johnny Fan?" He nods dumbly. On her clipboard, she makes a big tick.

"Where am I?" Johnny says. "I feel very peculiar." She smiles. "Welcome to limbo. Complimentary orange juice?"

"No, ta." He looks around. "This isn't my living room," he observes. "Blimey. Last thing I remember, I was watching the FA Cup Final. What happened?"

"Oh, Arsenal won 2-0. Newcastle were never in it and Shearer got no service."

"No, I mean what happened to my living room?"

There is a momentary pause while she decides not to answer the question.

"Cup of tea?" she asks brightly. "I'll get you one. Milky and a bit cold?" And she steps out, softly closing the door behind her.

Limbo? Oh *hell*. He remembers now about limbo. Every four years this happens, between the end of the season and the start of the World Cup, but this year it has taken him completely unawares. In World Cup limbo, every week feels like a decade; they make you watch *Children's Hospital* and do jigsaw puzzles and listen to Radio 2.

They keep the lights on day and night. And every time you say "I want to go home", they reply "there's no footie there, mate, you'd hate it", and you sink back on your hard chair again, to stare blankly at the walls.

"I'm sure you've got me too early," John remarks to the limbo lady, as she returns with his cup of tea.

"Oh, a lot of people are saying that," she smiles. "It's because the Premiership contest climaxed two weeks before the end. Anyway, you'll be pleased to know that five seconds have elapsed since you arrived and that a full range of Radio 2 programmes is available at the touch of a switch.

"If there's anything else you need, just call for the attendant." Johnny asks: "Can I have a bed, please? And some sleeping tablets? And a copy of Alan Shearer's autobiography?"

She wrinkles her nose.

"No. That would make it a bit too easy."

"All right then. Can I have some books about the World Cup? Can I phone home?"

"No."

"How many seconds have elapsed since I got here, did you say?"

She consults her watch. "Three."

"But you said five."

"I was lying," she admits. "To cheer you up."

Johnny Fan puts his head in his hands, but can't force a tear, because really this isn't so bad.

The alternative to limbo is so very much worse — to plant the garden with his wife, take the kids to the seaside, concentrate on his work, pretend footie doesn't exist.

He can't possibly do any of that; not with the World Cup coming. He hears a snatch of "Football's coming home, it's coming home," and then tries to get comfortable on his chair.

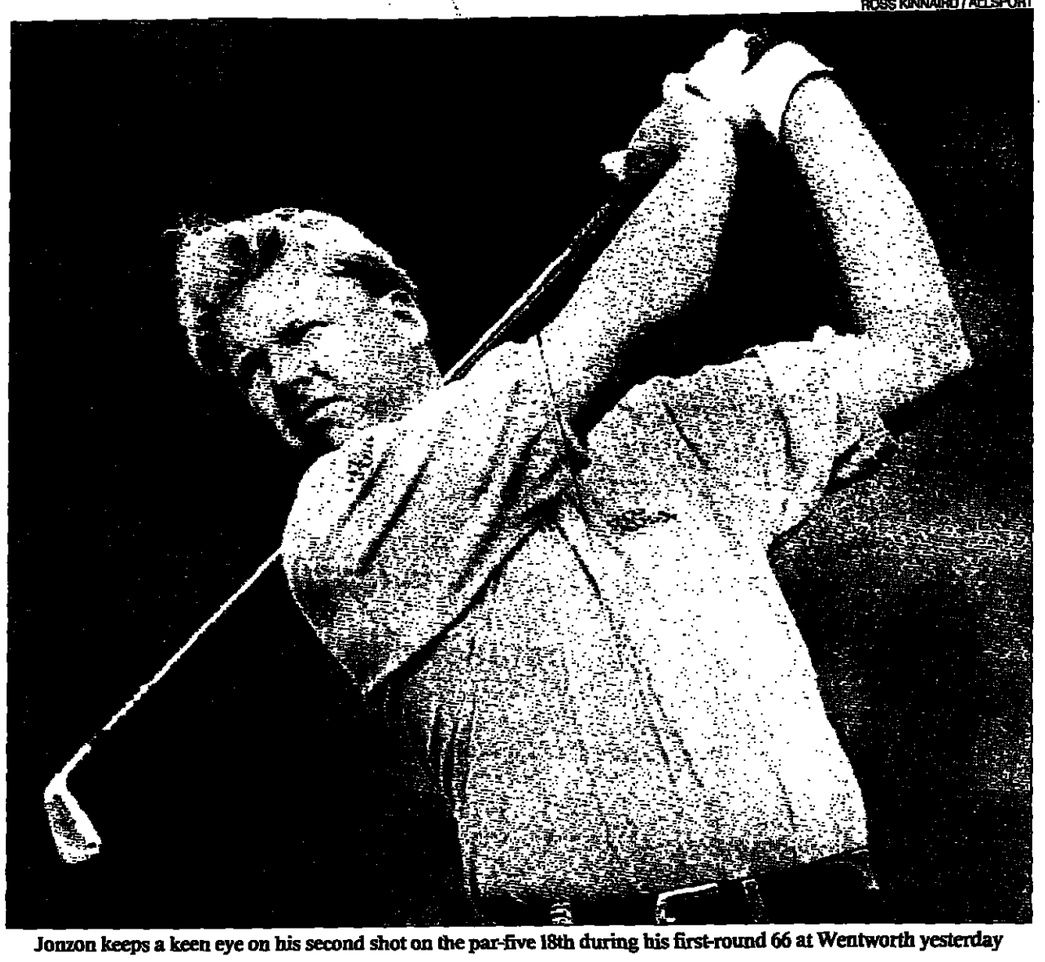
Slowly he drinks his cold tea and fixes his gaze ahead. By his latest calculation, there are only 435 hours, 59 minutes and 57 seconds to go. He can survive it. He knows he can. He must.

GOLF: YOUNG SWEDE LEAVES BIG NAMES TRAILING IN VOLVO PGA CHAMPIONSHIP AT WENTWORTH

Jonzon outshines the leading lights

BY MEL WEBB

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT



Jonzon keeps a keen eye on his second shot on the par-five 18th during his first-round 66 at Wentworth yesterday

THE first round of the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth yesterday turned into a tale of stirring deeds by underdogs and rather more fanciful stories of what might have been for some of the big names. It was a day to be a spear-carrier, not a leading man.

As Michael Jonzon (underdog) took an early one-stroke lead over Brian Davis (another underdog) with a 66, six under par, Ernie Els and Bernhard Langer (big names) had 69s, Colin Montgomerie (similar) a 70 and Severiano Ballesteros (ditto) a 72, while José María Olazábal and Ian Woosnam (likewise) were one over par. The sound of stars clattering off dressing-room doors was deafening.

Jonzon won the Portuguese Open last year, but until yesterday had endured various degrees of awfulness this season. He had missed seven out of ten halfway cuts and did not know where the next decent score was coming from, but would hardly have expected it to come at Wentworth. Six birdies and no bogeys gave him the most pleasant of surprises.

In most circumstances, anything around par in the first round of this tournament is respectable enough. However, with the course in prime condition and the weather sunny and gently breezy, the impression early on was that it would take something rather lower to stand a chance of taking the lead. In his quiet and unassuming way, Jonzon duly provided it.

It was a round in which accuracy and reliability rather than glittering and daring strokeplay were the watchwords, but that is the way Jonzon is. He missed only two fairways, gave himself birdie chances with his irons and converted them with a warm putter.

Els left the scene feeling that he had left some shots on the golf course and Langer, at his most dangerous when hurting, was just happy that his creaky neck let him complete 18 holes in some sort of order. He should still not be discounted. Montgomerie, meanwhile, was at his most cryptic after a round in which he was subjected to several shades of frustration on the greens. He had had 26 putts by the time he had completed 13 holes and admitted that he could not hope to compete with that sort of statistic hanging over him.

So far, so good. It was only when he got round to putting forward a theory as to why he was not scoring well that things became seriously obscure. "I have lost the knack of scoring right now," he said lucidly enough. "I'm maximising positively instead of maximising negatively." The temptation was to ask him why he had lapsed into American techno-babble simply to describe holing a few putts, but prudence stepped in before the famous Montgomerie temper was invoked.

As the players leave the tee at the 1st, they walk past a newly unveiled statue of Bernard Gallacher, the head professional at Wentworth for 22 years and sometime Europe Ryder Cup captain. It is an intriguing work that brings irresistibly to mind Sir Winston Churchill's description of a Graham Sutherland portrait of himself as "an interesting piece of modern art". It was a good idea to honour Gallacher, but it is a shame that the sculptor gave him a stance that would have rendered making contact with the ball a notion on the far side of unlikely.

It is easy to drop a shot at the 1st without doing much wrong and almost as simple at the 2nd and 3rd. When Mark McNulty birdied all three and gathered another shot to par on the 4th on his way to reaching the turn in 31, he should have been looking to put himself very close to the top of the leaderboard, especially with three birdie opportunities to come on the par-five 12th, 17th and 18th.

He would have done, too, had he not made an almighty mess of the 18th, where he drove into a bush, then had to take a penalty drop before subsiding to a double-bogey seven. It turned a 67 into a 69 that left McNulty sickened. Maybe he suddenly remembered Gallacher's statue and tried to swing like it.

DETAILS

EARLY LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 66: M Jonzon (Swe). 67: B Davis. 68: M Mackenzie, D Howell. 69: C Whitelaw (SA), M McNulty (Zim), E Els (SA), M James, B Langer (Ger), S Leaney (Aus), A Johnstone (Zim), A Lyle. 70: J Robson, D Robertson, P O'Malley (Aus), C Montgomerie, J Haeggman (Swe), G J Turner (NZ), S Torrance, H Clark, K Tomori (Japan), R Burns, M Reale (It), E Romero (Arg), D Gilford, P Harrington, R Goosen (SA), P-U Johansson (Swe), T Bjorn (Den), P Hedblom (Swe). 71: L Westwood, C Rocca (It), D Borrego (Sp), R Claydon, R Karlsson (Swe), D Clarke, R Rafferty, P Price, G Brand Jr, M Roe, R Wessels (SA), C Watts, R Boxall, L Thompson, S Webster, R Russell, J Lomas.

TENNIS

Progress for Rusedski is open to doubt

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Tim Henman can contemplate some progress, Greg Rusedski, seeded No 5 for the French Open, which starts next week, was paired with a difficult first-round opponent when the draw for the second grand-slam event of the year was made in Paris yesterday.

Rusedski, the British No 1, is up against Johan Van Herck. The Belgian may be ranked No 97 in the world, but he is a sound clay-court exponent who reached the semi-finals at Coral Springs earlier this month. Henman, unseeded, has been pitted against Sargis Sargsian, world-ranked No 94.

An Armenian now based in the United States, Sargsian has cut little ice on the ATP Tour this year. He has posted two wins and ten losses in 1998 and won just two of his 11 matches on clay last year. Henman will be fancied to advance.

On a broader note, Gustavo Kuerten, the defending champion, has been handed the roughest passage of all. Victory over Charles Auffrey, a French wild-card entrant, will almost certainly see Kuerten clash with Andre Agassi, whose successful return to the game has narrowly failed to propel him among the seeds. Agassi must first dispose of a qualifier to set up that intriguing second-round match.

Pete Sampras, who has yet to win the French Open, is drawn against his compatriot, Todd Martin, the winner on clay in Barcelona last month. Should Sampras progress to the last 16 — and Henman is in that section of the draw — he will not relish his projected encounter with Felix Mantilla, seeded No 15, who compiled the best clay-court record on the tour last year.

Whether Henman can progress beyond the second round is open to doubt. Victory over Sargsian would see him confront the winner of the match between two renowned clay-court specialists in Andrei Medvedev and Davide Sanguinetti. By coincidence, Sanguinetti beat both Sargsian (in the first round) and Van Herck (in the semi-finals) at Coral Springs, before losing to Andrew Ilie.

A sense of realism must govern expectations surrounding Rusedski and Henman in Paris. Neither is yet proficient on clay. Rusedski has won just one match in four tournaments on the surface this year; Henman has won three times from as many outings and has yet to progress beyond the first round at Roland Garros in two previous visits.

Rusedski, for his part, reached the third round in 1994. If he can overcome Van Herck, further gains may come his way. He will meet the winner between two as-yet unidentified qualifiers in the second round. Beyond that lurk a number of clay-court specialists — Slava Dosedel, Julian Alonso and Jim Courier, twice a former champion.

In the women's event, Martina Hingis will open her quest for the sole grand-slam title outside her possession against the little-known Maria Sánchez-Lorenzo, of Spain. Hingis's projected quarter-final opponent is Venus Williams, who is seeded for the first time in a grand-slam tournament. Hingis was beaten in the final last year by Iva



Henman: weakness

Majoli, who has a straightforward task against Pavlina Stoyanova, of Bulgaria.

Other women's seeds with Hingis and Williams in the top half of the draw include Anna Kournikova, Jana Novotna and Monica Seles, three times a champion. This looks much the stronger section; the likes of Majoli and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, twice a former winner, have an excellent opportunity to progress from the lower half. Steffi Graf, five times the champion, is again absent through injury.

The most dangerous unseeded player is Serena Williams, beaten by Venus, her elder sister, in the quarter-finals on her clay-court debut in Rome earlier this month.

FRENCH OPEN DRAW

FIRST ROUND: Men: * P Sampras (US) v T Martin (US); R Delgado (Par) v M Damm (Cz); S Sargsian (Arm) v T Henman (GB); A Medvedev (Ukr) v A Gaudenzi (It), L Arnold (Arg) v D Sanguinetti (It), F Santoro (Fr) v J-F Bachelot (Fr); A Clement (Fr) v B Black (Zim); Qualifier v * F Mantilla (Sp); * K Kucera (Slovakia) v T Woodbridge (Aus), J A Mann (Sp) v G Raoux (Fr); V Spadea (US) v D Nestor (Can); F Meligeni (Br) v T Johansson (Swe); T Nydahl (Swe) v S Draper (Aus); M Craca (Ger) v Qualifier, N Kieler (Ger) v T Haas (Ger), T Muster (Austria) v * J Bjorkman (Swe); * M Rios (Chile) v B Steven (NZ), E Alvarez (Sp) v M Tebbutt (Aus); M Washington (US) v M Norman (Swe); M Sinner (Ger) v W Ferreira (SA), B Ullrich (Cz) v W Black (Zim); M Philippoussis (Aus) v Qualifier, J Bunlo (Sp) v M-K Göllner (Ger), K Carlsen (Den) v * A Costa (Sp); * C Moya (Sp) v S Grosjean (Fr); J-B Perlant (Fr) v Qualifier; S Dosedel (Cz) v M Tillstrom (Swe); J Alonso (Sp) v Qualifier, J Courier (US) v R Fromberg (Aus), Qualifier v C Costa (Sp), Qualifier v Qualifier, J van Herck (Bel) v * G Rusedski (GB); * Y Kafelnikov (Russ) v Qualifier; D Pascariu (Rom) v T Enqvist (Swe), Qualifier v G Ivanisevic (Cro), F Dewulf (Bel) v M Larsson (Swe); A Di Pasquale (Fr) v O Delaitre (Fr), F Clavet (Sp) v A Chesnokov (Russ); Qualifier v J Siemerink (Holl), A Calatrava (Sp) v * M Chang (US); * A Correja (Sp) v K Alami (Mor); F Vicente (Sp) v M Woodforde (Aus), M Rosset (Switz) v G Pozo (It); H Gumy (Arg) v S Bruguera (Sp); O Mutis (Fr) v D Prinosil (Ger), M Gustafsson (Swe) v A O'Brien (US), J Stoltenberg (Aus) v G Blanco (Sp), S Lareau (Can) v * P Rafter (Aus), * G Kuerten (Br) v C Auffray (Fr), Qualifier v A Agassi (US); S Schalken (Holl) v D Vacek (Cz), Qualifier v J-M Gambill (US), M Filippini (Uru) v C Pioline (Fr); Qualifier v C Vinck (Ger), Qualifier v A Portas (Sp); N Lapentti (Ec) v * R Krajicek (Holl), * A Berasategui (Sp) v G Stafford (SA), G Solves (Fr) v R Reneberg (US); D Hrbaty (Slovakia) v S Campbell (US), J Sánchez (Sp) v J A Woca (Sp); J Novak (Cz) v H Arazi (Mor), J Golmard (Fr) v N Escude (Fr), J Tarango (US) v P Haarhuis (Holl); Qualifier v * P Korda (Cz)

Women: * M Hingis (Switz) v M A Sánchez-Lorenzo (Sp), M Babel (Ger) v Y Yoshida (Japan), N Pratt (Aus) v I Gorrochategui (Arg), K Habsudova (Slovakia) v D Chladkova (Cz); S Berger (Fr) v B Rittner (Ger); N Sawamatsu (Japan) v L Nemeckova (Cz); A Smashnova (Isr) v L Neiland (Lat); E Gagliardi (Switz) v * N Tauziat (Fr); * I Spirlea (Rom) v S Pitschke (Austria); H Nagyova (Slovakia) v R McQuillan (Aus); N Dechy (Fr) v O Barabanschikova (Bela); A Cocheteux (Fr) v A Wunderlich (US), A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) v O Lugina (Ukr); B Schett (Austria) v A Gersi (Cz), L Golarsa (It) v A Sugiyama (Japan), T Tanasugarn (Thai) v * V Williams (US); * J Novotna (Cz) v A Miller (US); E Loit (Fr) v C Torrens-Valero (Sp); Qualifier v K Brandi (US); K Hrdlickova (Cz) v Qualifier, G Nielsen (US) v S Jayaseelan (Can); H Inoue (Japan) v A Carlsson (Swe); S Kleinova (Cz) v K Studenikova (Slovakia); * A Mauresmo (Fr) v * A Kournikova (Russ); * L Raymond (US) v T Panova (Russ); L McNeil (US) v C Rubin (US); S Pitkowski (Fr) v M Saeki (Japan); L Andretto (Fr) v * M A Vento (Ven); W Probst (Ger) v B Schwartz (Austria); M Oremans (Holl) v E Makarova (Russ), K-A Guse (Aus) v M Maruska (Austria); A Ellwood (Aus) v * M Seles (US), * A Coetzer (SA) v P Schnyder (Switz), N Kijimuta (Japan) v J Halard-Decugis (Fr), A Glass (Ger) v J Kruger (SA), Shi-Ting Wang (Taiwan) v S Farina (It); R Dragomir (Rom) v J Husarova (Slovakia), F Perfetti (It) v S Cecchini (It); P Hy-Boulais (Can) v M Serna (Sp); S Appelmans (Bel) v * M Pierce (Fr), * D van Roost (Bel) v M Grzybowska (Pol); L Gharardi-Rubbi (Fr) v Qualifier, C Moraru (US) v B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl), J Nejedly (Can) v S Williams (US), T Snyder (US) v E Curutchet (Fr); B Paulus (Austria) v A Fusai (Fr); C Cristea (Rom) v M de Swardt (SA), J Kandarr (Ger) v * A Sánchez-Vicario (Sp); * C Martinez (Sp) v M Lamarre (Fr); J Lee (Taiwan) v R Grande (It); S Klösel (Ger) v V Ruano-Pascual (Sp); N van Lottum (Fr) v A-G Sidot (Fr); Sung-Hee Park (S Kor) v F Lubiani (It), Qualifier v Fang Li (China); F Labat (Arg) v N Zvereva (Bela); P Stoyanova (But) v * I Majoli (Cro); * S Testud (Fr) v S Reeves (US); N Miyagi (Japan) v E Wagner (Ger); Y Basuki (Indo) v G L Garcia (Sp); Qualifier v P Suarez (Arg), S Cacic (US) v E Likhovtseva (Russ); Qualifier v Qualifier: C Dhenin (Fr) v Qualifier, K Po (US) v * L Davenport (US).

* denotes seeded players

CYCLING: FORMER TOUR DE FRANCE CHALLENGER TO MAKE SURPRISE RETURN IN PRUTOUR ROAD RACE

Boardman gets order of the boot

CHRIS BOARDMAN may have relied on Lotus technology to sweep him to Olympic glory, but it seems that he is no match for two car-boot sales and a rubbish tip (Craig Lord writes).

West Mercia Police, concerned with road safety, have put a spoke in the wheels of the British Open road race championship, scheduled for the Dudley area on July 5 with Boardman among the entries. Two routes have been rejected because of heavy traffic expected for the car-boot sales and those wishing to offload unwanted items at a Herefordshire council tip.

Acting Superintendent Tony Pryce, of West Mercia Police, said: "We have not got a downer on this race. Our priority is that it should be conducted in safety. The roads in the area are very narrow and my view is that 100 to 120 cyclists taking 15 laps of this circuit constitutes a road safety hazard."

Yates tempted back from retirement

BY PETER BRYAN

SEAN YATES, who twice wore the race leader's yellow jersey in the 12 Tours de France in which he competed before his retirement from road racing nearly three years ago, has made a surprise decision to ride in the 900-mile Prutour, which starts in Stirling today.

The Linda McCartney team, from Britain, down to five men after a crash last weekend involving Scott Gamble, approached Yates and invited him to compete as a guest. All other invitations to Yates to return to road racing had previously been politely refused.

Yates, a self-employed gardener in West Sussex, has always explained that his job allowed him only a minimum opportunity to train but sufficient to ride in short-distance time-trials. When the McCartney offer was made on Thursday, Yates said: "Give me five minutes." The reply came back within that time in the affirmative.

"It didn't take me long to make my mind up. It beats gardening, anyway," Yates said. The 38-year-old Sussex professional, a heavily-built 6ft 4in, was a vegetarian until he was 20 and still favours non-meat food.

The Linda McCartney team, who finished their Prutour preparations with the recent tour of Slovenia, will benefit from having Yates on board, not only for his stage-race experience but also for the power that he can generate in pulling back a leading group of riders.

Gamble's accident left him with severe facial injuries and he later suffered from occasional dizzy spells.

Chris Boardman was happier about his form yesterday than he has been for several weeks and remains favourite to win overall. He spent two hours on the road yesterday and then another hour on the Manchester velodrome. When told of Yates's entry he was surprised. "It will be nice to see him in action again," Boardman said, "but I cannot see him as a threat."

Boardman has made it clear that he will give his best shot to the nine-day tour, hoping to be strong enough to win the 2.6-mile prologue — with 300 yards of cobble stones to negotiate to the finish at Stirling Castle. "I'll be glad when Saturday's ride against the clock is over," he said.

After that he will rely on his strong Gan team for protection from attacks by rival squads. Gan include Marcel Gono, a new Australian professional, who was twelfth in the under-23 world time-trial championship last year, as a late replacement for Henk Vogels.

For the first time since turning professional in 1993, Boardman is without a victory at this point of the season, which will make him all the more determined to be successful, at least in the prologue.

Time bonuses could determine the final outcome of the tour, which ends in the City of London on May 31. There are ten, six and four seconds to the first three riders across the line at the end of each stage, plus further awards of three, two and one second for three special sprints each day during the race.

Total prize-money exceeds £100,000 for an event that includes 18 teams of six riders.



Yates: opportunity



Boardman: favourite

DETAILS

ROUTE: Today: Prologue: Stirling (2.6 miles). Tomorrow: First stage: Edinburgh to Newcastle (130 miles). May 25: Second stage: Gateshead to York (112 miles) May 26: Third stage: Manchester to Blackpool (111 miles). May 27: Fourth stage: Chester to Nottingham (100 miles). May 28: Fifth stage: Birmingham to Cardiff (124 miles). May 29: Sixth stage: Bristol to Reading (98 miles). May 30: Seventh stage: Chassington World of Adventure to Medway (100 miles). May 31: Eighth stage: Holborn, London Circuit race (50 miles).

TEAMS: Gan (Fr); Festina (Fr); US Postal Services (US); Big Mat Auber 93 (Fr); Oil Me (US); Bmc Voice (GB); Linda McCartney (GB); Great Britain; England, Scotland; Wales, Ireland; Denmark; New Zealand; Australia; South Africa; Mobilvetta Design (It).

TELEVISION: Sky Sports.

BOXING

Dunne faces step up in class

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

COLIN DUNNE'S skills will be put to the test when he defends his World Boxing Union lightweight title against Emmanuel Clottey, of Ghana, at York Hall tonight. Dunne, a Liverpudlian based in Holloway, gave one of the finest displays seen in a British ring for some time when he lifted the title by outpointing Zoltan Kalocsai last November, but Clottey is a class above the Hungarian.

The challenger, who comes from Bukom, Ike Quartey's village, is unbeaten in 14 contests and, like the World Boxing Association welterweight champion, is a puncher as well as a boxer. He has stopped 11 of his opponents, including two good Britons — Carl Allen, the Midlands super-bantamweight champion, and Tommy Janes, of Cardiff — in three and four rounds respectively. Clottey also outpointed Rakhim Mingaleev, a tough Ukrainian, who gave P. J. Gallagher the fight of his life.

Terry Toole, the manager of Dunne, Toole, said: "Clottey is very capable. He can bang. Colin won't go looking for him. He'll have a good look at Clottey first."

Dunne has been training with Sergei Devakov, the Ukrainian who recently knocked out Spencer Oliver, and Toole believes that once Dunne gets into his stride, he will prove too skilful for the Ghanaian.

Michael Brodie, the mandatory challenger for Devakov's European super-bantamweight title, has a somewhat easier task defending his Commonwealth title against Simon Romani, of South Africa, on the same card. Brodie is an exciting prospect, who has still to convince his critics that he is a worthy world title contender.

Romani has never been stopped, but has lost three of his 13 contests.

BOWLS

Selectors prepare to gamble

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

ENGLAND, who dominated the home international series between 1983 and 1994, have not won the *News of the World* trophy for three years, so changes are likely for the series this year, which will be played in Ayr from June 29 to July 3.

The selectors have raised eyebrows — and a few hackles — by dropping David Ward and Gary Smith, two veteran campaigners, as well as Gordon Charlton, of Kent, before the international trial at the New Lount club in Leicestershire tomorrow.

The phlegmatic Ward, who is 52, occupied the key position of skip — captain of the rink, tactician, and player of his team's last bowls — for most of his 16 years in the England side.

Smith, 39, made his international debut, like Ward, in 1982 and he has questioned the wisdom of leaving out experienced players in favour of younger men.

However, the readiness of the selectors to experiment with new combinations will no doubt give hope to the aspirants lining up to parade their skills, and especially to John Leeman, of Durham, who has been pencilled in to replace Ward at skip.

Among the younger players who could benefit from a selectorial spring clean are five of the six players who trounced Australia in the the under-25 Test series last summer — Robert Newman, Ian Bond, Simon Skelton, Richard Sampson and Nicky Jones.

Although Newman and Jones both skip rinks, they are not likely to be selected in that position, but Bond looks well-placed as Tony Allcock's third man and Skelton could do well as Andy Thomson's second. Sampson, too, could get in as Lee Miller's lead. John Bell has been paired with Thomson.

*Source: Sports Marketing Surveys Ltd



IT'S NOT SO MUCH WHICH BALL THE PRO'S PLAY AT THE VOLVO PGA. IT'S WHICH TITLEIST.

The PGA European Tour rolls into Wentworth with a world-class field battling for supremacy over this showpiece event. But with respect to the players, there's only one big name that's absolutely guaranteed to win. Once again Titleist is the overwhelming choice* of Europe's top Tour Pro's as they make their way around the Burma Road. Just as it has been every week of every year on Tour, since records began in 1980. What's more, players teeing up Titleist have won no fewer than 12 of the 13 Tour events so far this season. Which adds up to a simple fact. The #1 ball at the Volvo PGA is the #1ball on the European Tour. And that's the #1ball in golf.

Titleist
#1 ball in golf.

هكذا من الأصل

Real secret of Gazza's Wilde life

DANNY BAKER



What a week. A documentary on Rock Hudson raises a smile as newsreels and cuttings from his early life show *Rock* to be a virile and rapacious heterosexual who is determined to walk the full length of life's love-counter before making his final selection. The publicists of the time hint that only Liberace might make a bigger catch for some lucky girl.

This is followed by a genuine contemporary news item reporting Paul Gascoigne's spiralling descent into a hybrid of Brendan Behan and John Belushi. Not only this, but ITN — that's ITN, not the *Daily Sport* — rounds up its item by wondering just which Paul Gascoigne will turn up in France: the footballer or the scandal who so often has let his country down.

To remind us of the latter, they show the moment against Germany in Euro 96 when Gascoigne fails by less than an inch to score the goal that would have given England victory. What a slacker.

Then, frustrated at not being able to get to the man himself, the newspaper focus shifts to embrace what I hear referred to as Gazza's Rat Pack — a non-stop, ring-a-ding, floating booze troupe who cavort like a whirlwind of bellicosity around the capital's hottest nightspots all day, every day. I am included in this and at nearly 41 I'll be damned if I will explode such a racy image of the kids' old man.

Dropping off my son at school on Wednesday, I soak up the longing and envious looks from other fathers who check my lapels for evidence of spilt champagne still not dry after being sipped from the shoes of famous actresses. They know that as they climb back into their cars en route for another predictable day at the office, I will be airlifted to London's Latin quarter via the suspended rope ladder from a hovering helicopter.

Once there, gold coins will be tossed at the feet of bosomy gypsy dancers, waiters slapped for the smallest break in the constant stream of margaritas and photos of Glenn Hoddle ridiculed with the defiant Biro addition of beard, glasses and missing tooth. Oh, Gazza will try to get away. He will try to steal away and grab a moment's sober reflection, a few minutes' work, but I will drag him back. I will keep him far away from his worried and well-meaning friends in the press.

For he is a footballing Oscar Wilde and they are but a gang of brutish Lord Queensberrys, outraged at this irresponsible adventurer and determined to bring him to heel. Yes, that's it. Gazza as Oscar, his dark passions unmasked, his glittering career forgotten. Then Glenn Hoddle becomes the well-meaning Robbie Ross, Chris Evans can be Charles Parker, the notorious money-grabbing male prostitute, and I ... I must be Bosie. I insist on being Bosie. Or Sammy Davis Jr at a pinch. Whatever, I just need you to know that I could have made a fortune this week milking this sort of guff ...

ADAM BUTLER / PA



RUI VIEIRA / PA



Singing a toon: Could the death of Frank Sinatra just before the FA Cup Final have dealt a fateful blow to Kenny Dalglish's hopes of taking the trophy back to Geordieland?

Lament for the grieving Magpies

Those of you who have been following the saga of Kate the occult-dabbling Arsenal supporter in these columns will have watched the Cup Final with an especially heavy heart. It's all over. Newcastle United didn't even try and so Kate has lost her immortal soul to Belial, the Fallen Angel. In fact, saying Newcastle didn't even try lets them off lightly. It was as poor an FA Cup Final performance as the Magpies' last appearance in the event.

Directionless, unmotivated and lost, nobody would have blamed Alan Shearer if he'd started cracking heads through his famous frustration. A friend of mine says Kenny Dalglish may be an agent of the devil, but I don't think even the Dark One would be clumsy enough to botch a Cup Final just to gain one more soul. He would have teased Kate, let Newcastle take the lead, go into extra time and all sorts before skewering her spirit on his infernal trident.

The only other suggestion I can offer is but fractionally more plausible. It seems the last time Newcastle pitched up at an FA Cup Final, in 1974, it was just three days after rock'n'roller turned respected crooner Bobby Darin passed away. Bobby was most famous for his high-octane performance of *Mac the Knife* and, in those distant days of Malcolm "SuperMac" Macdonald, such an omen sat heavily on the Geordie squad's shoulders. Liverpool won at a canter.

Then, last week, virtually on the eve of the big game, the world loses Sinatra. As I understand it, the chain works like this: Sinatra — *My Way* — *My Way* — Steve Heighway — oh God, it's going to happen again. I did say it was but fractionally more plausible.

Nobody wants to admit that Kenny has simply lost the recipe these days and, in a tip of the hat to Ol' Blue Eyes, will soon announce another retirement. Perhaps if, come next May, Newcastle are back at Wembley, it would be in their interests to grab Tony Bennett and stick him a huge Jiffy bag. Punching a few airholes first, of course.

☐ **Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.**

World Cup roll call sets imagination racing

After watching the European Cup final between Real Madrid and Juventus, I find that I can't stop repeating aloud the name Zinedine Zidane. It is a tremendously satisfying linguistic flourish and raises even higher my expectation of the World Cup, with its inevitable crop of exotic names that act upon one's lips like a Catherine wheel.

We recall Olarticoechea (Argentina), Rats (USSR), Pak Doo Ik (North Korea) and Cyrille Makanaky (Cameroon). I am trying to avoid the full splendours of the France 98 Namefest until at least the opening ceremony, but I do hear talk about Thabo Mooki (South Africa) and Rigobert Song (Cameroon). There really is no limit to how marvellous it is all going to be.

Come on City, join the feast of excitement

Companies in the City of London are warning employees that they will be keeping a strict check on those absences from work that coincide with important World Cup fixtures. I have long argued that for the World Cup not to be declared a global Bank Holiday is asking for trouble: tantamount to Mum drawing the curtains when a funfair camps at the foot of your garden. Even President Suharto must have known that if he could have clung on for another three weeks, the streets would have been emptier than a Jim Davidson marriage vow.

So enormous is the prospect of this feast that, in my own field, I have refused all offers of free tickets and travel to 90 per cent of the games.* I need to be home, fairly sober, by a phone and in front of several TV sets.

For, as all veterans of the feast know, the true lipsmacking deliciousness of a World Cup is those giddy days during the initial fortnight when you can open a newspaper and goggle in wonder at the TV pages that tell you:

12.30pm: Mexico v Japan (ITV)
Greece v Argentina (BBC1)
3pm: Highlights from earlier games and full live coverage of Holland v Spain (BBC2)
7pm: Scotland v France (Scotland only)
7.15pm: Italy v England (all channels)
10.30pm: Round-up of today's games and previews of tomorrow's matches, featuring Germany against Brazil

How exciting is that? I know these aren't accurate fixtures for June, but you get the idea and I tell you honestly, I've started trembling a bit. The window ledges during the crash of '29, the collapse of Far Eastern markets and the year 2000 computer virus combined will be nothing compared to the unrest that will ensue if the big-money companies don't start growing up and concede that France 98 is bigger than their mouldy old ledger books. I am sure that, shown the right attitude, workers will be happy to go in on days between rounds — and will probably work twice as hard, too.

"It is better 50 per cent efficiency if you have 100 per cent loyalty"
— *Sam Goldwyn*

*compulsory attendance events: semi-finals, final and Iran v United States.

Of chocolate, budgies and a dead phone line

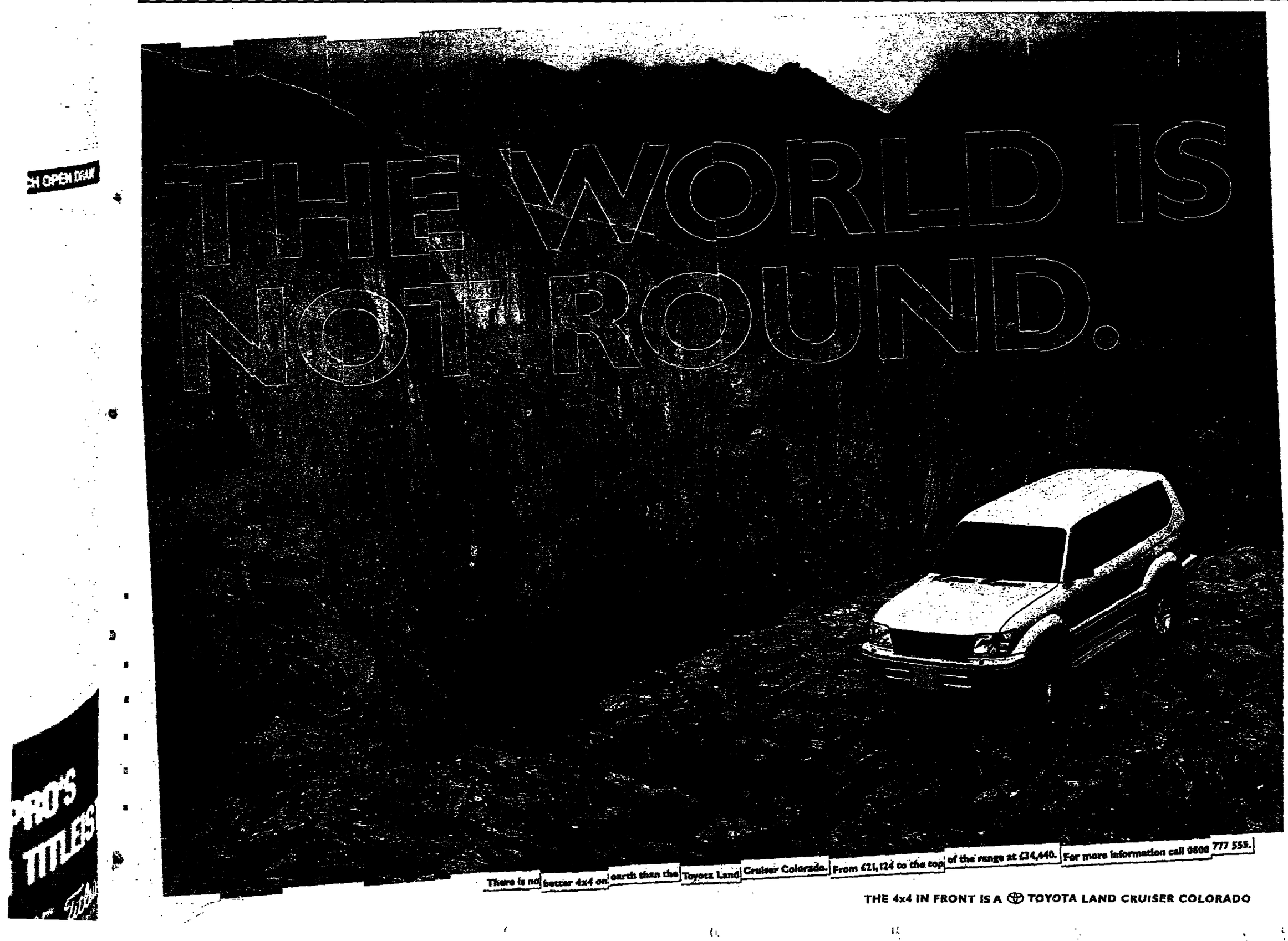
No sooner had my ideas for gingering up Formula One been printed — random distribution of ignition keys at start, last lap on foot — than I get a chance to present them to the one man who might push them through racing's parliament. Murray Walker calls up a show I am doing in London! Murray feels he cannot rest until he has dispelled the claim of a previous caller that, when Walker was an executive at an advertising firm, he dreamt up the phrase "A Mars a Day Helps You Work, Rest and Play". In fact, he was simply the rubber-stamp of the slogan. It was one of many put forward to his department in order best to show off the chocolate bar and, as soon as he saw it, he legged it to the print-room crying "We have a winner!"

Another world-beating strap from the Sixties was: "Trill Makes Budgies Bounce With Health". "That," I winkle out of him, "may have been one of mine."

We bantered on and Murray claimed to find some good points in my proposed changes to motor racing, though not enough to overcome the traditionalist in him.

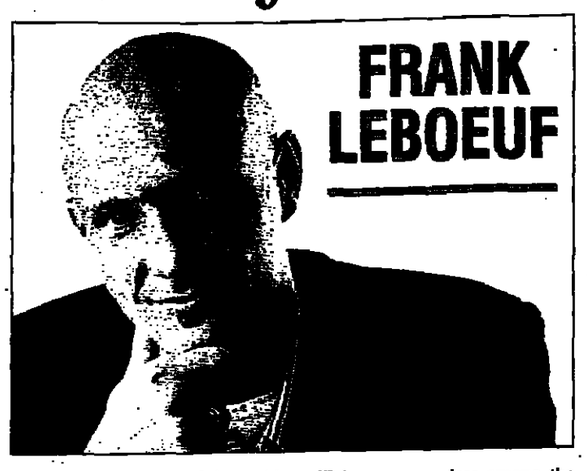
I finally threw in: "What about 'Murray Mints, Murray Mints, Too Good to Hurry Mints'. I can't believe you had no part in that."

And the line went dead ...



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Omission of Zola only serves to increase the tension



FRANK LEBOEUF

It is strange sending this column from the château outside Paris that is the France national team headquarters. I am at the heart of the World Cup and yet we all feel strangely cocooned here from the excitement that must be building up all around the planet.

That is partly to do with dozens of burly security guards making sure that there are no intruders. But it is also a mental thing because it is not the time for us to start feeling the buzz. That is for the supporters. As professionals, the coaches will make sure that we only begin concentrating on the tournament a few days before our first game, against South Africa on June 12. Then there will be no shortage of adrenalin.

If there is any pressure at the moment, it is waiting for the coach, Aimé Jacquet, to announce his final 22. At the moment, we are 28 and the cut is due to be announced today. It is a dreadful thing for any player to be so close and miss out, especially with the tournament in our home country, but six poor souls must depart. Famous last words, but I am confident I can survive the cut. I will certainly be in a state of shock by the time you read this if I have not. The case of Gianfranco Zola, my good friend and team-mate at Chelsea, shows that no one can be sure of anything at international level because the competition is so fierce.

I am sure the immediate reaction to Franco's omission from the Italy squad has been outrage at Stamford Bridge. After all, didn't he prove his class and the ability to win big games with that stunning goal in the Cup Winners' Cup final only a week or so ago?

While I fully sympathise with Franco, however, and believe he is capable of doing the same at international level, I have to report that the Italy-based players among the France squad are not so surprised. It is not that they think Franco is not good enough. It is just that Roberto Baggio has been in stunning form in Serie A, making it almost impossible for Cesare Maldini to leave him out.

They say that if Baggio had been ignored and Italy had struggled in the World Cup, Maldini would have faced a lynch mob. Baggio is an experienced performer who has done it all before on the world stage, so you can understand Maldini's thinking — not that it is any consolation to poor Franco.

I really cannot say whether there will be any surprises among the France squad, but competition again is intense. For English supporters, I'm sure it will be fascinating to see whether Nicolas Anelka makes it after his excellent recent performances for Arsenal. Luckily for Nicolas and I, our club games at the end of the season meant that we missed out on the first stage of France's preparations. Jacquet took the squad up to the ski resort of Tignes and made them run through the snow at more than 3,000 metres. I'm sure the views were lovely but I cannot say I was too envious.

■ Celebration blues

With some of us having to disappear off to international camps and the rest of the Chelsea boys departing for Martinique for an end-of-season tour, I still do not feel as if I have celebrated our Cup Winners' Cup triumph and it is very depressing.

When you think that it is the first time an English side has won a European competition since 1994, I would like to feel it is something the whole country would have taken some pride in. Everyone was so exhausted on the flight back, we did not even have the energy for a sing-song on the plane and we all just lurched back to our beds with farewells until pre-season training.

My colleagues in the France squad have been very complimentary and supportive. It always helps a national side's morale to see players winning the biggest competitions and we have had success across the board with Youri Djorkaeff helping Internazionale to the Uefa Cup, Christian Karembeu a vital part of the Real Madrid team that beat Juventus this week for the European Cup, and, of course, my success with Chelsea.

It has done wonders to raise the profile of Chelsea. When I moved to London from Strasbourg, obviously Ruud Gullit was a big draw as manager, but the club itself was a bit of a mystery to me.

Now foreign players have seen us win at the highest level and it will be a big help to Gianluca Vialli as he builds up the squad this summer. I have already had words with Marcel Desailly, my international colleague, who appears to be leaving AC Milan, about the joys of London life and I do not think he would regard moving from the San Siro to Stamford Bridge as any kind of step down.

■ State of chaos

I hope the biggest stories this summer stem from what happens on the field. There is a real fear, though, about matters off it and the situation has not been helped by talk of strikes in France by pilots, lorry drivers, train drivers and so on.

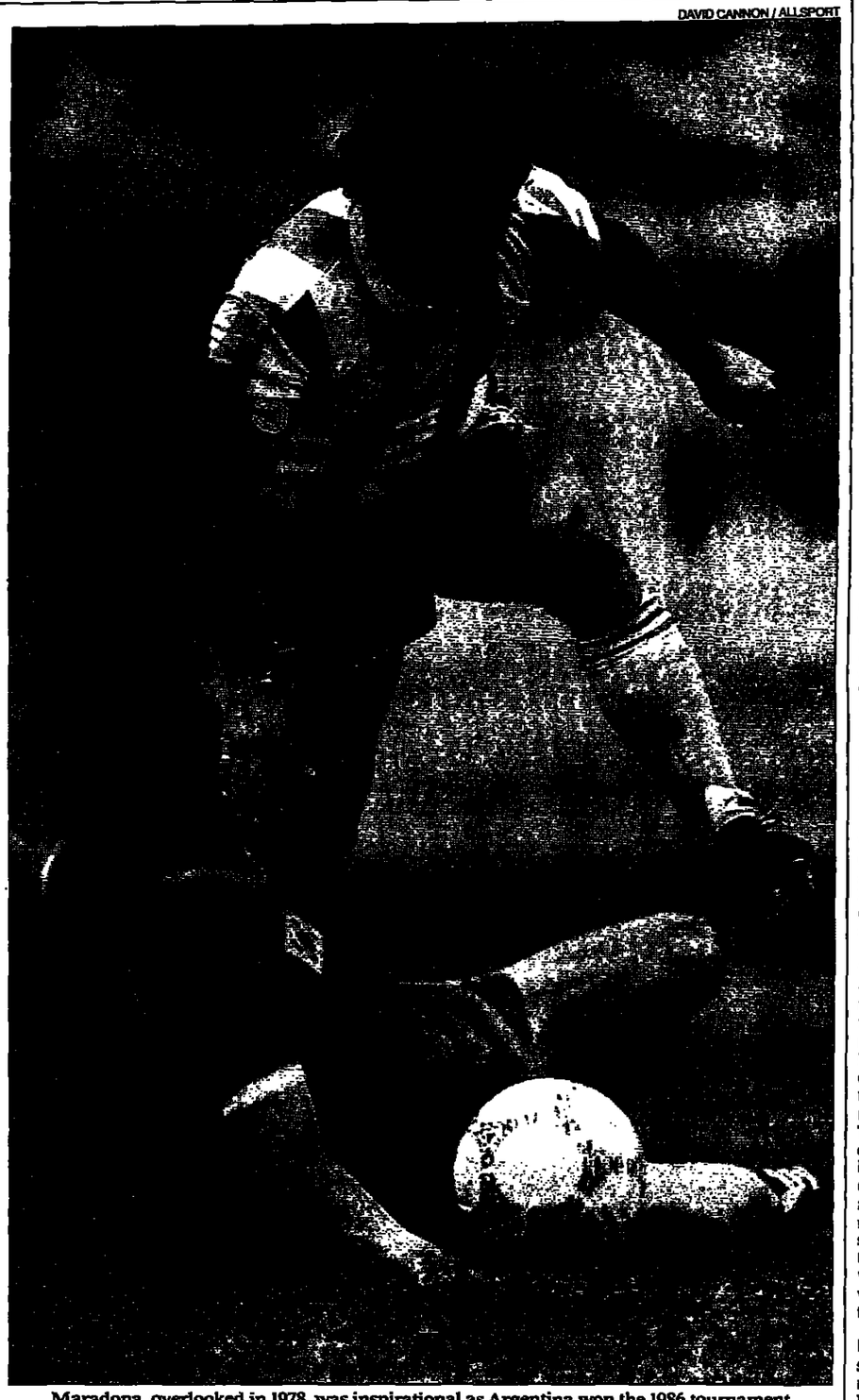
There seems to be industrial action from one group or another in my country every day at the moment, with too many people expecting that the state will look after them. It is a recipe for chaos that will be further complicated by the fact that the French Open at Roland Garros finishes as the World Cup starts, then the Tour de France overlaps in July as it reaches its climax.

The only conclusion is that it will be a brave Englishman who crosses the Channel this summer on just a tourist holiday. My advice is to stay away. For those who have tickets for World Cup games, I can only wish them the best of luck. Enjoy the football and my country, but do not drink too much beer!

World Cup history full to overflowing with famous absentees

Legendary names who miss the cut

DAVID CANNON / ALLSPORT



Maradona, overlooked in 1978, was inspirational as Argentina won the 1986 tournament

Gianfranco Zola has reluctantly become what the Italians call *il grande escluso*, the Great Excluded. The Chelsea forward will not, unless something, some injury, intervenes, be in France for the World Cup. He is by no means the first, though, of his disappointed kind.

So many leading players, over the years, have failed, for one reason or another, to make the cut. The first probably was the Uruguay goalkeeper, Mazzali. A star of the team that impressively won the Olympic Games tournaments of 1924 and 1928, he was injured before the 1930 World Cup. In the small hours of the morning, the trainer caught him sneaking back into the team hotel, set in the middle of a Montevideo park, shoes in hand. He was instantly expelled and did not play again in Uruguay's eventual success.

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Years later, I met him and several other happy, cackling old men in a Montevideo television studio, celebrating the anniversary of an Olympic win.

Stanley Matthews, England's prince of outside rights, always had an uneasy relationship with the England selectors, who eagerly dropped him after the war in favour of Tom Finney; until they realised that the two functioned superbly together. When England picked the party for the 1950 World Cup, Matthews was not included. Instead, he went on a Football Association tour of North America, which included a victory over the United States World Cup team that would sensationally beat England in Belo Horizonte.

At the last moment, the selectors repented and Matthews was called up, but he did not play against the US, getting just one game, the third, against Spain in Rio de Janeiro.

Neil Franklin, the elegant England centre half, did not play at all. He had decamped from Stoke City to Colombia shortly before to earn a fabulous £50 a week playing for Santa Fe, in Bogotá.

In 1958, England had to cope with the loss of their Manchester United stars after the Munich air crash in February. They were entitled to take 22 players to Sweden. Inexplicably, they took 20, omitting Nat Lofthouse, the Bolton Wanderers centre forward, who had just scored both goals in a 2-0 defeat of Manchester United in the FA Cup Final. He seemed an obvious replacement for the late Tommy Taylor.

The next autumn England recalled him. His forceful challenges unsettled Belanov, the Russia goalkeeper, at Wembley and England won 5-0. How useful he might have been a few months earlier, when Russia beat England 1-0 in Gothenburg in the World Cup play-off.

Len Shackleton, the self-styled Clown Prince of Soccer, one of the most talented inside forwards of his day, never played in a World Cup. Once, in training with England at Roehampton, he and the other forwards were asked by Walter Winterbottom, the manager who was a great theorist, to run down the field, interpassing, then put the ball into the empty goal.

Shackleton looked up wearily from the ground. Which side of the goal, Mr Winterbottom?

What might Sweden have done in the 1950 World Cup had all their stars been available? They won the 1948 Olympic Games in London with a formidable side, but most of their best talent then turned professional at clubs in Italy and Spain. This meant they lost the future "Grenoli" trio of AC Milan, Gunnar Gren, Gunnar Nordahl and Nils Liedholm, and Garvis Carlsson, the inside forward. Sweden did qualify for Brazil in 1950, reaching the final pool, but Brazil swamped them 7-1.

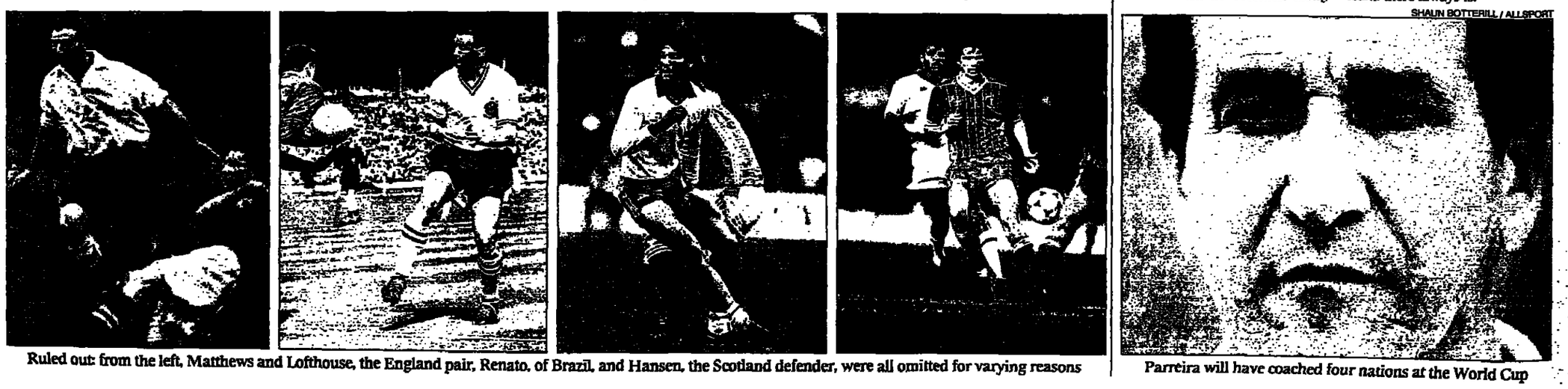
Not until the 1958 World Cup, when professionalism was acknowledged, could George Raynor, their English manager, recall the 36-year-old Gren and Liedholm. As Raynor predicted, Sweden reached the final.

In 1978, Cesar Luis Menotti, the Argentina manager, surprisingly omitted the 17-year-old Diego Maradona, although he had been his mentor, and had already capped him.

History repeated itself before the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, when the hedonistic Renato Gaucho, the powerful Brazil right winger — addicted to the nightlife — broke curfew and was slung out of the squad by Tele Santana, the manager. This also cost Brazil one of the best defenders, Leandro. A close friend of Renato, he did not appear when the team flew to Mexico.

The Scotland manager in 1986, Alex Ferguson, left out Alan Hansen. Kenny Dalglish, Hansen's player-manager and admirer at Liverpool, was so upset that some believed he dropped out as a consequence, even though he had been injured.

There was never any doubt about Hansen's talents, but he was a "footballing" centre half who could sometimes give second chances. For all that, though, he surely deserved a place.



Ruled out: from the left, Matthews and Lofthouse, the England pair, Renato, of Brazil, and Hansen, the Scotland defender, were all omitted for varying reasons

Parreira happy to have escaped frenzy of Brazil

Andrew Warshaw finds a more relaxed coach aiming for a second-round place at the World Cup with Saudi Arabia

If Saudi Arabia lose heavily to England today, the oil-rich princes in the Middle East state won't be best pleased. Neither will Carlos Alberto Parreira, the man they appointed to guide their team through the World Cup finals next month.

After all, Iran sacked Tomislav Ivic earlier this week with the finals just three weeks away. Too much pressure? Parreira shakes his head. Not when your previous job was coach of Brazil. "I don't envy [Mario] Zagallo." Parreira said of the Brazil incumbent. "Being coach of Brazil is different from anything else in football. I remember how Graham Taylor was vilified in the English tabloids. That was nothing compared with what can happen when you're in charge of Brazil. They expect all the country's political and social ills to be solved through football."

Fortunately for Parreira, his Brazil side won the World Cup in the United States in 1994, but there were times during the qualifying competition when he couldn't stand the job. "I had the strength to bear it but in the end I just got fed up."

Parreira knew that if he carried on — he was offered the chance — he would have to retain the trophy in France or be branded a failure. Such is the all-or-nothing mentality in Brazil. This is not to say that he isn't proud of what he achieved: no one is better qualified to pass judgment on Brazilian football and Parreira admitted that his team triumped as much through European-style spirit as skill. He also admitted that, man for man, his Brazil team was not as good as the present version — yet they still won the tournament.

'Brazil expects football to solve all of its social and political ills'

"Technically, Brazil will be the best team in France," Parreira said, "and are certainly better than my squad were. But to win the World Cup you need to prepare well and you need to know how to win away. You do this with leadership and discipline.

"I was criticised for being too defensive four years ago. I wasn't. We were simply well-organised and we played for each other. We didn't have many prima donnas. I think playing in Europe will be harder for Brazil than it was in the US. Ronaldo and Romário are extremely gifted but will the side have the unity that we had?"

Parreira, 58, will set a record in France when he becomes, along with Bora Milutinovic, of Nigeria, the first person to have coached four different teams in World Cup finals (the others were Kuwait in 1982, United Arab Emirates in 1990 and Brazil). He only agreed to take the job once he knew that Brazil would not be among their first-round opponents.

Parreira's ambition for Saudi Arabia is the same as that of all coaches in charge of the weaker sides: to reach the second round. If that seems a trifle optimistic bearing in mind their group D opponents are France, Denmark and South Africa, the Saudis have been there before. Morocco and Belgium both paid the penalty of underestimating them four years ago and lost. Who can forget Saeed Al-Owairan's spectacular goal from well inside his own half that was enough to beat Belgium?

Al-Owairan is back, having been recalled by Parreira after a period in disgrace for allegedly attending an illegal drinks party. He is still the Saudis' biggest weapon but Parreira is shackled by the fact that none of his squad have played professionally overseas. "It's a big handicap. The boys are not used to playing at such a high level consistently, as they would be if they could go abroad."

The law may be about to change. Parreira believes a good showing in France could persuade the Saudi soccer federation to allow players to move to Europe. "That was, after all, how the Africans started," he said, "and look at them now."

Meanwhile, Parreira is just happy to be a part of the whole jamboree, without the heavy burden of expectation hanging over him. The Saudis love their football and can celebrate with the best of them. But if they are knocked out early, they are unlikely to get vitriolic. And, anyway, Parreira's contract is only for one year.

Parreira hopes that the weather is hot and sticky: his team need any advantage they can get. They won't win the trophy, and if Brazil don't either, who will?

"Whether they succeed or not, I'd put the Brazilians up there with Argentina (they'll love that in Rio!) as one of the favourites, together with France. Italy and Germany ... with England and Holland in the next group. The pace will be quicker and the games more competitive than four years ago. And there'll be one big surprise team: there always is."

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

Parreira will have coached four nations at the World Cup

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Hoddle to profit from fringe benefits

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MANY and varied are those who have supped in the Last Chance Saloon. Politicians and newspaper editors have been told time and again that they are drinking in it and that they must beware future transgressions. Today, at Wembley, as the World Cup deadline draws near, a select band of England footballers have been lined up at the bar.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, insisted yesterday that he would attempt to retain the fabled "spine" of his team for the international against fellow World Cup qualifiers, Saudi Arabia, that he would not deviate too far from the side he considers his strongest so close to the World Cup.

But although Alan Shearer, the captain, will definitely start and there is also likely to be a place for Tony Adams, his defensive linchpin, Hoddle made it clear that certain players would be given opportunities to prove their fitness as a first step to claiming a place in the final 22.

That means that Darren Anderton is likely to be given a chance to resurrect his international career, probably in the centre of midfield alongside David Batty, and that Ian Wright will play in attack with Shearer. It is also probable that there will be a place somewhere on the left for Andy Hinchcliffe.

Whether Paul Gascoigne — who must own a part share in several saloons by now — will be among the trialists, is more problematic. Hoddle said recently that he was only 40 per cent fit and although he made positive noises about his *enfant terrible* yesterday, he may have to wait to give him a start until next Wednesday, when England play Morocco in Casablanca. If he is not careful, Gascoigne may yet find himself among those worrying about his place.

"He is looking sharper and sharper every day," Hoddle said. "The great thing is that he is now training totally injury-free and there is nothing that is holding him back. Both in training and off the pitch, he has not been a problem this week."

Hoddle devoted much of his press conference yesterday to lauding the benefits of the involvement of Paul Durkin, England's World Cup referee, at Bisham Abbey this week. Durkin has refereed training sessions and watched videos of questionable tackles and reactions with the squad, offering them his opinions on which merited a yellow card or a sending-off.

"It will be hard to change the approach of someone like Tony Adams in two or three weeks," Hoddle said. "But we know we have to defend differently and we know now what sort of pressures the referees are going to be under in the World Cup. They only have one game in the first phase and it will depend how they are judged on that as to whether they get any games in the second phase.

"They have to do it by the book and that side of it has been well and truly planted in the players' minds. At first, I thought it might be a disadvantage that we do not play our first game until five days after the tournament begins but at least we will be able to study the referees and the players will realise it is a reality.

"My main concern in the three games we have got left is not necessarily the results but more what we get from the matches in other ways. At the same time, it would be nice to go to France on the back of four straight wins. Whatever happens, we will do a lap of appreciation at Wembley for the fans. It won't be a lap of honour. You need a trophy for that."

The squad have been practising with the new World Cup football. "It's lively," Hoddle said. "It only needs a half-clip on a cross rather than a full swing." Then, he smiled when one of his questioners made a joke. "Yes," he said, "I suppose you could really say it will be a different ball game out there."

DETAILS

ENGLAND (probable; 3-5-2): D Seaman (Arsenal) — M Keown (Arsenal), A Adams (Arsenal), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur) — D Beckham (Manchester United), D Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur), P Scholes (Manchester United), D Batty (Newcastle United), A Hinchcliffe (Sheffield Wednesday) — A Shearer (Newcastle United), I Wright (Arsenal).

TELEVISION COVERAGE: Live: Sky Sports 2 (2.0pm-5.30). Highlights: Sky Sports 2 (11.0pm-12.0); ITV (10.45pm-11.45).



The fundamental things apply: how things might have been at Rick's had Gazza and England made their trip to Casablanca before so much time had gone by

Still the same old story in Casablanca

"— Here's looking at you, kid." Humphrey Bogart, 1942.

"Ideal love flies away night. White jacket, moon, black tie, wings too. You gave her away to the hero." Bryan Ferry, If HB, 1973.

Of all the places in all the world, England are going to Bogart country. **Michael Henderson** rounds up the usual suspects

You know how it is, when the bars close and the bums are full of liquor, and not holding it like men should, and looking for some place to go, and cursing, and needing to be told their fortune, and not wanting to know? So you end up listening to the stories of their wasted lives and you wake up with an ocean of Scotch in your belly, and you say no more, it don't amount to a hill of beans, and the next night you do it all over again.

Most of the guys come here are regular. It ain't Trenton, New Jersey, but it ain't blueblood territory either. Everybody goes to Rick's, and everybody knows Rick's a tolerant guy. Just pay up and, mister, if there's a hint of trouble I get Louis — Captain Renault to you — to round up the usual suspects.

I got the routine. The French cry into their cups, and sing about April in Paris, but I've heard every torch song I ever want to, and I know Paree too well to believe it's all roses in the Rue de Rivoli. The Germans, they're either at your throat or at your knees. I never bother with them much and when they're gone I'll bother even less. The Hungarians, well, I've met only one guy from Budapest, Victor somebodyorother, and I wasn't sorry to see him go. I even helped him out of a jam, in a way, but don't be asking me how. Everybody wants to know your business round here. Nobody ever tells. It's the best way. It's the only way.

We don't get many limeys here. Not their sort of place, I guess. I've never been to London but I know they wear bowler hats all the time and treat their dogs better than their broads, and speak like they've got something stuck in their throats, and can't freeze their drinks, so I reckon Rick's doesn't need them.

The other night we had a bunch of them sat round the big table over by Sam, the piano player. They kept telling him to "play it again, Sam", and laughing fit to beat the band, but nobody ever said that before in this bar, and certainly not me.

It's funny, the way they speak, like some sort of tongue disease, but they were hanging round this lollapalooza who was calling the shots, the others kept calling him boss. Hell, nobody calls me boss and I own the joint. Hey, I thought, he must be some smart guy, I can learn something just by listening to him, but all I could make out was some talk about "cutting down that stuff if you want a place in my team". Of all the things in all the world to talk about in a gin-joint.

> 'The guy had the vacant look that some of Strasser's cronies get'

The guy he was talking to looked out of it to me, he had that vacant look that some of Strasser's cronies get when they're zonked out of their heads and start behaving like they're in some German beer hall, and banging the tables, and wishing they were driving a tank through Poland, and not couped up in some fleapit town in Africa. So I went on listening and this guy, whose name sounded like a French wine, was pleading with his boss not to be hard on him, and vowing to mend his ways, like I hear a thousand times a week, usually from some moon-faced wreck as the broad blows a mouthful of smoke over his shoulder.

And this guy, I could see, had tears in his eyes, and said something about it being the end of a beautiful friendship, which is the wrong way round in anybody's book, and he was going to go to the Blue Parrot, run by that fraud Ferrari, who tried to steal Sam from me, and get wrecked, which is the sort of phrase limeys use, I guess, and his pals were there, and they were famous, much more famous than this boss fella, that I could tell him for free, and I couldn't help thinking of that man Fitzgerald wrote about, Gatsby, who was polluted by "the foul dust" that preyed on him.

And I thought, maybe it's better to be a nobody than to be a big-timer when people are looking to gun you down. And then I thought, maybe, he gives everybody such a big target to aim at, and behaves like a horse's ass, and people just can't resist the urge to kick it.

And the last thing I heard before I joined Louis in the back room was this boss, who looked like a choirboy to me, telling him that if he kept his nose clean for another two months then England would be top of the world, "and then we'll always have Paris", though I didn't understand that bit, and this guy with the funny name kept saying that Paris isn't all it's cracked up to be, and he can keep it all to himself. But that's not the way I remember it.

FA charges Batty over incident with Elleray

DAVID BATTY, who will miss the first five games of next season because of suspension, faces the prospect of having his ban extended by the Football Association.

The FA confirmed yesterday that it had received the report of David Elleray, the referee who sent Batty off in Newcastle United's final FA Carling Premiership match of the season, against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park. Batty, dismissed for appearing to throw a punch at Garry Flitcroft, then seemed to push Elleray after being shown the red card.

It was Batty's third sending-off of the season and yesterday an FA spokesman said that the England midfield player had been charged with misconduct. Batty has 14 days in which to respond.

Clubs interested in signing Alan Thompson from Bolton Wanderers will have to pay at least £5 million, Colin Todd said yesterday. The Bolton manager is resigned to losing his most prized asset and said that the club had already turned down one bid of £4.5 million before their relegation from the Premiership was confirmed.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

"There has been a lot of speculation about the player's future and Alan and his agent have now indicated that he wishes to leave the club," Todd said. "They have brought a contract clause into effect which allows Alan to leave in the event of relegation. We were reluctant to include that clause but had no choice in the matter and, while I have fought to keep him here, the player and his advisers have used it to force the issue."

Liverpool are hoping that a fee of £2 million will be enough to secure the signing of Sean Dundee, the South African-born striker whose club, Karlsruhe, were relegated from the Bundesliga.

Representatives from Anfield have flown to Germany to try to complete the deal, the need for extra forward power having been exacerbated by the news that Robbie Fowler is unlikely to play again before Christmas. Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, is expected to recoup his outlay by selling Patrik Berger to AS Roma next week.

Bristol City, runners-up in the Nationwide League second division, have more than doubled their club record transfer fee by paying Gillingham £1.2 million for Ade Akinbiyi. The former Norwich City striker, 23, scored 22 goals for Gillingham this season.

Arsenal have signed Graham Stack, a 15-year-old goalkeeper, on the recommendation of Bob Wilson, their former goalkeeper, who saw him at one of his coaching schools.

Sheffield United are to advertise the position of team manager, with a closing date of June 5. The club has already received a number of applications, including one from Steve Thompson, who replaced Nigel Spackman on a temporary basis after his resignation in March.

Dave Merrington, the former Southampton manager, has resigned as chief scout for Wolverhampton Wanderers after 15 months. Merrington, 52, has been linked with the vacant manager's position with Burnley.

Middlesbrough are to increase the price of season tickets at the Riverside Stadium by up to 16 per cent after regaining a position in the Premiership.

A match between Romania and Northern Ireland, scheduled for Bucharest next Friday, has been cancelled because the two federations have failed to reach a financial agreement, the Romanian Football Federation announced yesterday.



Dundee: £2 million transfer target for Liverpool

Grimsby face test of power

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

WILL power and direct-route football be enough to give Northampton Town victory over Grimsby Town in the Nationwide League second division play-off final tomorrow?

After his side's remarkable 3-0 victory in the semi-final return leg against Bristol Rovers, reversing a 3-1 away defeat, Ian Atkins, the Northampton manager, made no bones about it. "It was just sheer determination," he said. "And I can't possibly praise my players enough. We played a bit of football out there, but basically it was just power football."

Grimsby, who visited Wembley recently when they won the Auto Windscreens Shield final, beat Fulham in the semi-finals with Kevin Donovan, their ever-present winger, scoring the decisive goal, his twentieth of the season. "Kevin has won us the game again," Alan Buckley, the Grimsby manager, said after the match. "The lad has had a fantastic season."

But Northampton have a lively winger of their own in Carl Heggs, who made the difference in the home leg against Bristol Rovers, scoring and creating a goal.

There seems little to choose between the teams. Grimsby finished third in the league on 72 points, one point and one place ahead of Northampton, having scored three more goals.

GRIMSBY TOWN (probable; 4-4-2): A Dawson — J McDermott, P Handyside, M Lever, A Gallimore — K Donovan, W Burnett, P Groves, D Smith — L Nogan, J Lester

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (probable; 5-3-2): A Woodman — I Clarkson, J Frain, I Sampson, R Warburton, J Hunt — D Peer, C Hill, C Heggs — C Freestone, J Gayle

Scotland given chance to refocus

IT IS not only luggage that goes missing in transit. Footballers find that they can be separated from their fame when they switch continents. At Newark airport on Wednesday, the passers-by were sophisticated enough to feign nonchalance over the presence of the actor, Morgan Freeman, who stood waiting for a car. Their indifference to the Scotland squad, on the other hand, was wholly sincere.

That lack of reaction is, in part, what made the United States appealing to Craig Brown, the team manager. In this area of New Jersey, the tree-lined avenues and large houses with their well-groomed lawns contain people who not only commute to work in New York, but grow wealthy by doing so. At their hotel in Short Hills, Scotland need not fear autograph-hunters.

John Collins is captain of AS Monaco, Kevin Gallacher scored 20 goals for Blackburn Rovers this season and seven members of the squad have just won Bell's Scottish League premier division championship medals with Celtic, yet a recitation of those honours would merely leave the locals baffled by their obscurity. For Scotland, there are no prying eyes here.

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN NEW JERSEY

The novelty of finding that they are not even worth a second glance appeals to men who have squirmed beneath public scrutiny in domestic competition over recent months. The tranquillity is supposed to refresh them for the World Cup finals next month. Valuable though the idyll may be, however, it may have to be brought to a halt.

In the Giants Stadium this evening, Scotland play a match with Colombia. There have been occasions when Brown has used this sort of fixture to tinker with the team. Indeed, the manager's record in non-competitive games suggests a disregard for their outcome. Fifteen of them have been played under Brown, producing nine defeats, two draws and only four victories.

Two years ago, in the build-up to Euro 96, Scotland lost 2-1 to the United States in Connecticut. The fact that a makeshift selection had been employed did nothing to diminish criticism of the result and Brown does not wish to give any cause for repetition of that surly reaction. More significantly, he feels it is already time to rekindle the competitiveness of his side.

Qualification for the World Cup finals was clinched with a 2-0 win over Latvia in October and since then Scotland have lost 2-1 to France and 1-0 to Denmark, as well as drawing 1-1 with Finland. The last two of those matches were played at home. Brown cannot afford to treat such indifferent form lightly.

The experiments conducted against Colombia will be limited, even if Brown does feel obliged to field Neil Sullivan, since the third-choice goalkeeper has so far collected only two caps and needs to have his education in international football furthered. There are other reasons, too, for treating the meeting with the South Americans as if it were taking place in an important tournament.

Brown seeks a dress rehearsal for the opening match of the World Cup, with Colombia's style standing in for that of Brazil, whom Scotland will face in the Stade de France on June 10. With this purpose in mind, Brown's thoughts are increasingly pragmatic.

When Gary McAllister, the captain, was lost to a long-term knee injury, there was lengthy speculation over the identity of his replacement as playmaker in the side. So far as the meetings with Brazil and, perhaps, Colombia are concerned, the manager may not even hold auditions for the role and, instead, will change the system. Scotland will never acquire fame in the United States, but, on the Giants Stadium field at least, they will have to make their presence felt.

TEAMS

SCOTLAND (3-5-2): N Sullivan (Wimbledon) — C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), T Boyd (Celtic) — J McNamara (Celtic), C Burley (Celtic), P Lambert (Celtic), J Collins (AS Monaco), C Dailly (Derby County) — G Durie (Rangers), D Jackson (Celtic)

COLOMBIA (4-4-2): O Cordoba (Boca Juniors) — W Cabrera (Independiente Medellin), J Bermudez (Boca Juniors), E Mendoza (Veracruz), H Galeano (Atletico Junior) — M Serna (Atletico Nacional), C Valderrama (Miami Fusion), F Rincon (Commbians), W Perez (Unscota) — A De Avila (NY/NJ Metrostars), F Asprilla (Parma)

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7/1...3-0 10/1...3-1 8/1...4-0
10/1...4-1 12/1...5-0 16/1...3-1
SAUDI ARABIA TO WIN
16/1...1-0 50/1...2-0 33/1...2-1
ODDS FOR THE DRAW
10/1...0-0 9/1...1-1 28/1...2-2
H/TIME F/TIME
ENGLAND..... ENGLAND 4/9
ENGLAND..... DRAW 16/1
ENGLAND..... S. ARABIA 50/1
DRAW..... ENGLAND 4/1
DRAW..... DRAW 10/1
DRAW..... S. ARABIA 28/1
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BY PHONE
Select your team and make a note of the three-digit player codes for your 11 players. Call the number below, and when prompted, tap in the player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) – make sure you write this down and keep it safe, you will need it to check your team's progress and make any transfers. The call will last approximately seven minutes. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from payphones cost approximately double. Calls from outside the UK (+44 990) are charged at national rate.

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1. If you enter World Cup Fantasy League through The Times or The Sunday Times you are bound to play it within the terms and conditions of play as specified. 2. Only applications made on the official entry form or through the telephone entry line numbers provided will be accepted for World Cup Fantasy League. 3. All postal applications must be received by first post June 10, 1998 at the latest. The closing date for telephone entries is noon on June 10, 1998. All entries made after this stage will be considered null and void. 4. There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 5. Neither Times Newspapers Limited nor Fantasy League Limited will accept responsibility for late or lost entries. 6. Indecipherable, inaudible, incorrect or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Where entry is by telephone, the computer record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. The decision of Times Newspapers Limited is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7. All telephone entries and services offered are by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone only. Transfers are made by Touch-tone telephone only. 8. Entrants under 18 years of age should seek parental permission before participating. 9. In the event of a player under-18 winning a prize, any monies will be held in trust on their behalf until they are 18 years old. 10. Entry by telephone should take approximately 7 minutes. 11. The judges decision relating to any disputes arising is final. 12. Informative and explanatory copy relating to World Cup Fantasy League form part of the terms and conditions of this game. 13. The top prize for this competition will be allocated to the player scoring the highest number of points, second and third prizes will be allocated to those scoring second and third highest respectively. The phase prizes will be awarded to the player scoring the most points in the relevant phase. 14. In the event of there being more than one winner of any prize, a tie-breaker will apply and the winner will be considered the player whose team has accrued the most goals. If there is still a tie at this point the team with the most assists will be the winner. The ranking will then be affected accordingly. In the event that there is more than one winner after the tie-breaker, the prize will be shared. 15. To win a prize, the relevant team must have been in the correct format at all relevant times in order to win that prize. 16. The rules, point structure and assist awards scheme are all copyright Fantasy League Limited. No information may be reproduced in any format without prior written consent from Fantasy League Limited. 17. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute (1 per minute from a public phone). 0991 fax calls cost 1 per minute. 18. The competition is not open to employees of Fantasy League Limited, Times Newspapers Limited or associated companies, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 19. Full details of players available, transfer details, checkline and fax score sheets will be published in The Times and The Sunday Times. 20. The scoring system and rules form part of the terms and conditions. 21. Times Newspapers Limited and Fantasy League Limited reserve the right to introduce new facilities or leagues to enhance Fantasy League World Cup. Such introductions will be printed in The Times and The Sunday Times at the appropriate time.

THE TIMES WORLD CUP FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

First Name .....
Surname .....
Address .....
.....
.....
Postcode ..... Daytime Tel .....
Age (if under 18) ..... Cheque/PO No. .....

TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)

	CODE	PLAYER NAME	COUNTRY
Goalkeeper			
Defender			
Defender			
Defender			
Defender			
Midfielder			
Midfielder			
Midfielder			
Midfielder			
Forward			
Forward			

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ I don't usually buy The Times
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THE TIMES WORLD CUP FANTASY LEAGUE

prizes worth £50,000

As the best players in the world gather in France for what promises to be one of the most exciting World Cup tournaments ever staged, *The Times* has teamed up with Fantasy League, the original fantasy football game, to give you the chance to choose your own team from the cream of the world's footballers. Simply pick 11 players from all those who will be vying for your attention this summer – it couldn't be easier

HOW TO PLAY
Select a team of 11 players from the list below. You can enter anytime, by post or phone, until June 10. You can only choose one player from any national team and you must select a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers). From 6am on June 2, when all World Cup squads will be confirmed, until noon on June 9, you will be able to transfer as many players as you wish on our transfer line. From the start of the World Cup until noon on July 3, you will be able to make a further six transfers. After noon on June 30 you will be able to select a maximum of two players from the same national team. Full details of the transfer system will appear in *The Times* from June 10.

THE SCORING SYSTEM
Players will score points as follows:

Goal 3 points

Assists 2 points

Defender/Goalkeeper Appearance 1 point for a defender or goalkeeper playing 45 minutes or more of a match, including extra time

Defender/Goalkeeper Clean Sheet 3 points (2 points for clean sheet, 1 appearance point)

Defender/Goalkeeper goal against -1 point

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Assists points awarded to a team-mate making the last pass before a goal is scored. Only applicable to members of the scoring team. If the last touch before a goal scorer is from a team-mate but his touch does not significantly alter the speed or direction of the ball, then two separate assists are given, one for each of the players setting up the goal. If the last touch before a goal scorer is by an opposing player and it significantly alters the speed or direction of the ball, then no assist is given. In the event of a penalty, the fouled player gets an assist if the penalty is successfully scored, but not if he takes it himself in which case no assist is given. No assist is given for a player who earns a free kick which subsequently results in a goal. The decision of Fantasy League will be final on these matters

Appearance points awarded to a defender or goalkeeper who is on the pitch for at least 45 minutes including extra time. Defenders or goalkeepers appearing in only part of a game will lose points for goals conceded while playing. If no goals are conceded while they are playing, they will be awarded a clean-sheet, if they are on the field for 75 minutes or more including extra-time.

Extra Time & Penalty Shoot-Outs: extra time (golden goal) goal and assists are awarded as above. For extra time goals points are deducted against the goalkeeper and defenders as above. No points are awarded for penalty shoot-out goals.

Full details of how to check your team score will appear in *The Times* from the beginning of June.

Use the list below to pick your world-beating 11, then enter using the coupon or by calling our hotline on:

0891 66 55 88
(outside UK +44 990 100 385)

Helpline: 01582 702 720, weekdays 9am to 6pm.

THE TIMES World Cup fantasy league

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Player	Country	Caps	Goals
101	Carlos Roa	ARGENTINA	9	0
102	Pablo Cavallero	ARGENTINA	4	0
103	Michael Konsel	AUSTRIA	38	0
104	Franz Wohlfahrt	AUSTRIA	35	0
105	Filip de Wilde	BELGIUM	20	0
106	Taffarel	BRAZIL	92	0
107	Carlos Germano	BRAZIL	8	0
108	Boris Mikhailov	BULGARIA	101	0
109	Zdravko Zdravkov	BULGARIA	15	0
110	Jacques Songo'o	CAMEROON	48	0
111	Nelson Tapia	CHILE	25	0
112	Marcelo Ramirez	CHILE	10	0
113	Oscar Cordoba	COLOMBIA	45	0
114	Farid Mondragon	COLOMBIA	21	0
115	Drazen Ladic	CROATIA	38	0
116	Marijan Mrmic	CROATIA	16	0
117	Peter Schmeichel	DENMARK	98	0
118	Mogens Krogh	DENMARK	7	0
119	David Seaman	ENGLAND	39	0
120	Tim Flowers	ENGLAND	10	0
121	Nigel Martyn	ENGLAND	6	0
122	Bernard Lama	FRANCE	36	0
123	Fabien Barthez	FRANCE	11	0
124	Andreas Kopke	GERMANY	51	0
125	Oliver Kahn	GERMANY	9	0
126	Ed de Goey	HOLLAND	29	0
127	Edwin van der Sar	HOLLAND	22	0
128	Ahmadreza Abedzadeh	IRAN	65	0
129	Gianluca Pagliuca	ITALY	33	0
130	Angelo Peruzzi	ITALY	22	0
131	Warren Barrett	JAMAICA	128	0
132	Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi	JAPAN	24	0
133	Jorge Campos	MEXICO	100	0
134	Abdelkader El Brazi	MOROCCO	36	0
135	Willy Okpara	NIGERIA	5	0
136	Frode Grodas	NORWAY	37	0
138	Jose Luis Chilavert	PARAGUAY	36	4
139	Ruben Ruiz Diaz	PARAGUAY	11	0
140	Bogdan Stelea	ROMANIA	45	0
141	Florin Prunea	ROMANIA	34	0
142	Andre Arendse	SOUTH AFRICA	27	0
143	Brian Baloyi	SOUTH AFRICA	8	0
144	Mohammed Al-Deayea	SAUDI ARABIA	94	0
145	Jim Leighton	SCOTLAND	85	0
146	Andy Goram	SCOTLAND	42	0
147	Kim Byung-Ji	SOUTH KOREA	31	0
148	Andoni Zubizarreta	SPAIN	123	0
149	Santiago Canizares	SPAIN	9	0
150	Ali Boumnijel	TUNISIA	11	0
151	Brad Friedel	USA	53	0
152	Kasey Keller	USA	26	0
153	Aleksandar Kocic	YUGOSLAVIA	15	0
154	Ivica Kralj	YUGOSLAVIA	15	0

DEFENDERS

Code	Player	Country	Caps	Goals
201	Nestor Sensini	ARGENTINA	42	0
202	Jose Chamot	ARGENTINA	35	2
203	Roberto Ayala	ARGENTINA	35	0
204	Javier Zanetti	ARGENTINA	29	1
205	Pablo Paz	ARGENTINA	10	1
206	Anton Pfeffer	AUSTRIA	53	1
207	Peter Schottel	AUSTRIA	50	0
208	Wolfgang Feiersinger	AUSTRIA	36	0
209	Martin Hiden	AUSTRIA	2	0
210	Bertrand Crasson	BELGIUM	15	1
211	Eric van Meir	BELGIUM	12	1
212	Philippe Leonard	BELGIUM	9	0
213	Aldair	BRAZIL	62	3
214	Cafu	BRAZIL	62	1
215	Roberto Carlos	BRAZIL	45	2
216	Goncalves	BRAZIL	22	1
217	Ze Roberto	BRAZIL	15	1
218	Junior Baiano	BRAZIL	14	2
219	Trifon Ivanov	BULGARIA	72	6
220	Radostin Kishishev	BULGARIA	22	0
221	Gosho Ginchev	BULGARIA	14	0
222	Ivailo Petkov	BULGARIA	9	0
224	Rigobert Song	CAMEROON	26	0
225	Javier Margas	CHILE	43	3
226	Ronald Fuentes	CHILE	27	1
227	Cristian Castenada	CHILE	17	1
228	Pedro Reyes	CHILE	12	2
229	Wilmer Cabrera	COLOMBIA	42	2
230	Jorge Bermudez	COLOMBIA	40	3
231	Ivan Cordoba	COLOMBIA	12	0
232	Robert Jarni	CROATIA	35	0
233	Slaven Bilic	CROATIA	35	3
234	Igor Stimac	CROATIA	26	2
235	Dario Simic	CROATIA	14	0
236	Goran Juric	CROATIA	8	0
237	Marc Rieper	DENMARK	51	1
238	Jes Hogh	DENMARK	35	1
239	Thomas Helveg	DENMARK	28	1
240	Jacob Laursen	DENMARK	21	0
241	Tony Adams	ENGLAND	50	4
242	Gary Neville	ENGLAND	25	0
243	Graeme Le Saux	ENGLAND	23	1
244	Gareth Southgate	ENGLAND	23	0
245	Martin Keown	ENGLAND	16	1
246	Sol Campbell	ENGLAND	14	0
247	Phil Neville	ENGLAND	10	0
248	Andy Hinchcliffe	ENGLAND	5	0
249	Rio Ferdinand	ENGLAND	2	0
250	Laurent Blanc	FRANCE	66	11
251	Marcel Desailly	FRANCE	40	1
252	Lilian Thuram	FRANCE	31	0
253	Bixente Lizarazu	FRANCE	30	1
254	Frank Leboeuf	FRANCE	12	2
255	Lothar Matthaus	GERMANY	122	22
256	Jurgen Kohler	GERMANY	98	1
257	Stefan Reuter	GERMANY	66	2
258	Thomas Helmer	GERMANY	65	3
259	Olaf Thon	GERMANY	46	3
260	Markus Babbel	GERMANY	28	1
261	Frank de Boer	HOLLAND	52	5
262	Arthur Numan	HOLLAND	26	0
263	Michael Reiziger	HOLLAND	24	0
264	Winston Bogarde	HOLLAND	12	0
265	Jaap Stam	HOLLAND	11	1
266	Mohammad Khakpour	IRAN	36	0
267	Paolo Maldini	ITALY	87	5
268	Alessandro Costacurta	ITALY	53	2
269	Ciro Ferrara	ITALY	44	0
270	Fabio Cannavaro	ITALY	13	0
271	Alessandro Nesta	ITALY	11	0
272	Durrant Brown	JAMAICA	123	2
273	Frank Sinclair	JAMAICA	5	0
274	Masami Ihara	JAPAN	114	5
275	Claudio Suarez	MEXICO	107	2
276	Duilio Davino	MEXICO	37	0
277	Pavel Pardo	MEXICO	36	0
278	Noureddine Naybet	MOROCCO	91	2
279	Uche Okechukwu	NIGERIA	41	0
280	Taribo West	NIGERIA	8	0
281	Celestine Babayaro	NIGERIA	6	0
282	Stig Inge Bjornebye	NORWAY	60	1
283	Gunnar Halle	NORWAY	59	0
284	Henning Berg	NORWAY	50	4
285	Ronny Johnsen	NORWAY	31	1
286	Alf-Inge Haaland	NORWAY	27	0
287	Catalino Rivarola	PARAGUAY	45	4
288	Carlos Gamarra	PARAGUAY	44	3
289	Francisco Arce	PARAGUAY	26	4
290	Gheorghe Popescu	ROMANIA	76	13
291	Dan Petrescu	ROMANIA	66	10
292	Daniel Prodan	ROMANIA	45	1
293	Tibor Selymes	ROMANIA	44	0
294	Anton Dobos	ROMANIA	20	1
295	Lucas Radebe	SOUTH AFRICA	41	1
296	Mark Fish	SOUTH AFRICA	37	2
297	Ahmed Jamil Madani	SAUDI ARABIA	94	5
298	Tom Boyd	SCOTLAND	53	2
299	Colin Hendry	SCOTLAND	30	1
300	Colin Calderwood	SCOTLAND	26	1
301	Tosh McKinlay	SCOTLAND	19	0
302	Christian Dailly	SCOTLAND	8	1
303	Matt Elliott	SCOTLAND	3	0
304	Lee Min-Sung	SOUTH KOREA	27	1
305	Rafael Alkorta	SPAIN	48	0
306	Miguel Angel Nadal	SPAIN	43	2
307	Abelardo Fernandez	SPAIN	39	2
308	Albert Ferrer	SPAIN	33	0
309	Sergi Barjuan	SPAIN	32	1
310	Sami Trabelsi	TUNISIA	42	3
311	Marcelo Balboa	USA	126	12
312	Alexi Lalas	USA	97	9
313	Sinisa Mihajlovic	YUGOSLAVIA	28	4
314	Zoran Mirkovic	YUGOSLAVIA	27	0
315	Goran Djorovic	YUGOSLAVIA	26	0
316	Miroslav Djukic	YUGOSLAVIA	23	1
317	Giuseppe Bergomi	ITALY	77	6

MIDFIELDERS

Code	Player	Country	Caps	Goals
401	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	66	10
402	Ariel Ortega	ARGENTINA	48	7
403	Matias Almeyda	ARGENTINA	15	0
404	Juan Sebastian Veron	ARGENTINA	15	1
405	Andreas Herzog	AUSTRIA	66	13
406	Peter Stoger	AUSTRIA	57	13
407	Heimo Pfeifenberger	AUSTRIA	34	9
408	Ivica Vastic	AUSTRIA	11	1
409	Franky van der Elst	BELGIUM	80	0
410	Enzo Scifo	BELGIUM	79	17
411	Lorenzo Staelens	BELGIUM	46	6
412	Marc Wilmots	BELGIUM	31	9
413	Nico van Kerckhoven	BELGIUM	14	0
414	Gert Verheyen	BELGIUM	14	2
415	Gert Claessens	BELGIUM	3	1
416	Philippe Clement	BELGIUM	2	0
417	Leonardo	BRAZIL	39	6
420	Denilson	BRAZIL	14	5
421	Rivaldo	BRAZIL	9	5
422	Doriva	BRAZIL	8	0
423	Zlatko Yankov	BULGARIA	66	4
424	Krasimir Balakov	BULGARIA	65	12
425	Daniel Borimirov	BULGARIA	36	4
426	Ivailo Yordanov	BULGARIA	36	1
427	Marc-Vivien Foe	CAMEROON	39	0
431	Luis Mussri	CHILE	22	0
432	Jose Luis Sierra	CHILE	22	2
433	Marcelo Vega	CHILE	21	1
434	Clarence Acuna	CHILE	15	0
435	Carlos Valderrama	COLOMBIA	104	10
436	Freddy Rincon	COLOMBIA	72	16
437	Mauricio Serna	COLOMBIA	36	2
438	Aljosa Asanovic	CROATIA	36	3
439	Zvonimir Boban	CROATIA	32	7
440	Robert Prosinecki	CROATIA	26	4
441	Mario Stanic	CROATIA	9	1
442	Krunoslav Jurcic	CROATIA	7	0
443	Silvio Maric	CROATIA	4	1
444	Michael Laudrup	DENMARK	97	36
445	Michael Schjonberg	DENMARK	26	3
446	Allan Nielsen	DENMARK	14	5
447	Per Frandsen	DENMARK	10	0
448	Jon Dahl Tomasson	DENMARK	4	0
449	Paul Gascoigne	ENGLAND	54	10
450	Paul Ince	ENGLAND	38	2
451	David Batty	ENGLAND	30	0
452	Steve McManaman	ENGLAND	20	0
453	Paul Merson	ENGLAND	17	2
454	Darren Anderton	ENGLAND	16	5
455	Robert Lee	ENGLAND	16	2
456	David Beckham	ENGLAND	13	0
457	Jamie Redknapp	ENGLAND	8	0
458	Paul Scholes	ENGLAND	6	3
459	Nicky Butt	ENGLAND	5	0
460	Didier Deschamps	FRANCE	67	4
461	Youri Djorkaeff	FRANCE	35	15
462	Zinedine Zidane	FRANCE	31	6
463	Christian Karembeu	FRANCE	30	1
464	Emmanuel Petit	FRANCE	18	0
465	Sabri Lamouchi	FRANCE	11	0
466	Ibrahim Ba	FRANCE	8	2
467	Patrick Vieira	FRANCE	6	0
468	Thomas Hassler	GERMANY	91	11
469	Andreas Moller	GERMANY	77	26
470	Christian Ziege	GERMANY	35	3
471	Jorg Heinrich	GERMANY	13	0
472	Michael Tarnat	GERMANY	10	0
473	Aron Winter	HOLLAND	69	2
474	Wim Jonk	HOLLAND	41	10
475	Ronald de Boer	HOLLAND	38	9
476	Marc Overmars	HOLLAND	37	6
477	Clarence Seedorf	HOLLAND	28	6
478	Phillip Cocu	HOLLAND	17	2
479	Edgar Davids	HOLLAND	9	0
480	Hamid Estili	IRAN	43	6
481	Karim Bagheri	IRAN	43	33
482	Demetrio Albertini	ITALY	50	3
483	Dino Baggio	ITALY	46	7
484	Roberto Di Matteo	ITALY	31	1
485	Angelo Di Livio	ITALY	20	0
486	Peter Cargill	JAMAICA	74	5
487	Theodore Whitmore	JAMAICA	74	11
488	Fitzroy Simpson	JAMAICA	20	1
489	Robbie Earle	JAMAICA	8	0
490	Hiroshi Nanami	JAPAN	37	5
491	Hidetoshi Nakata	JAPAN	19	6
492	Ramon Ramirez	MEXICO	86	12
493	Alberto Garcia Aspe	MEXICO	75	11
494	Marcelino Bernal	MEXICO	66	15
495	Mustapha Hadji	MOROCCO	42	4
496	Finidi George	NIGERIA	36	3
497	Mutiu Adepoju	NIGERIA	35	3
498	Austin Okocha	NIGERIA	26	2
499	Sunday Oliseh	NIGERIA	22	1
500	Kjetil Rekdal	NORWAY	64	13
501	Oyvind Leonhardsen	NORWAY	55	12
504	Staale Solbakken	NORWAY	33	6
505	Petter Rudi	NORWAY	16	3
506	Roberto Acuna	PARAGUAY	40	3
507	Julio Cesar Enciso	PARAGUAY	22	2
508	Gheorghe Hagi	ROMANIA	109	32
509	Dorinel Munteanu	ROMANIA	61	4
510	Ilie Dumitrescu	ROMANIA	60	3
511	Constantin Galca	ROMANIA	30	3
512	John Moshoeu	SOUTH AFRICA	44	6
513	Helman Mkhalele	SOUTH AFRICA	35	7
514	Eric Tinkler	SOUTH AFRICA	30	1
515	Fuad Anwar Amin	SAUDI ARABIA	95	9
516	John Collins	SCOTLAND	47	9
517	Billy McKinlay	SCOTLAND	24	4
518	Craig Burley	SCOTLAND	23	0
519	Scot Gemmill	SCOTLAND	13	0
520	Paul Lambert	SCOTLAND	10	0
521	Ha Seok-Ju	SOUTH KOREA	79	21
522	Yoo Sang-Chul	SOUTH KOREA	53	9
523	Fernando Hierro	SPAIN	55	15
524	Luis Enrique Martinez	SPAIN	35	7
525	Guillermo Amor	SPAIN	32	4
526	Julen Guerrero	SPAIN	30	10
527	Zoubeir Beya	TUNISIA	41	9
528	Cobi Jones	USA	105	8
529	Joe-Max Moore	USA	65	16
530	Claudio Reyna	USA	58	5
531	Dragan Stojkovic	YUGOSLAVIA	62	12
532	Slavisa Jokanovic	YUGOSLAVIA	31	4
533	Albert Nadj	YUGOSLAVIA	24	1
534	Vladimir Jugovic	YUGOSLAVIA	22	3
535	Roberto Baggio	ITALY	47	25

STRIKERS

Code	Player	Country	Caps	Goals
601	Gabriel Batistuta	ARGENTINA	59	36
602	Abel Balbo	ARGENTINA	30	11
603	Claudio Lopez	ARGENTINA	18	2
604	Hernan Crespo	ARGENTINA	14	3
605	Toni Polster	AUSTRIA	91	41
606	Luc Nilis	BELGIUM	44	8
607	Luis Oliveira	BELGIUM	23	7
608	Lokonda Mpenza	BELGIUM	7	2
609	Bebeto	BRAZIL	66	38
610	Romario	BRAZIL	62	41
611	Ronaldo	BRAZIL	35	25
612	Edmundo	BRAZIL	27	8
613	Hristo Stoichkov	BULGARIA	70	35
614	Emil Kostadinov	BULGARIA	66	25
615	Liuboslav Penev	BULGARIA	59	12
616	Alphonse Tchami	CAMEROON	34	7
617	Patrick Mboma	CAMEROON	13	6
618	Ivan Zamorano	CHILE	37	23
619	Marcelo Salas	CHILE	32	19
620	Antony de Avila	COLOMBIA	59	16
621	Victor Aristizabal	COLOMBIA	39	5
622	Faustino Asprilla	COLOMBIA	37	15
623	Hamilton Ricard	COLOMBIA	17	5
624	Davor Suker	CROATIA	33	26
625	Goran Vlaovic	CROATIA	25	10
626	Alen Boksic	CROATIA	23	5
627	Igor Cvitanovic	CROATIA	22	3
628	Brian Laudrup	DENMARK	75	18
629	Mikkel Beck	DENMARK	14	3
630	Miklos Molnar	DENMARK	8	2
631	Alan Shearer	ENGLAND	38	18
632	Teddy Sheringham	ENGLAND	32	9
633	Ian Wright	ENGLAND	29	9
634	Les Ferdinand	ENGLAND	14	5
635	Michael Owen	ENGLAND	3	0
636	Dion Dublin	ENGLAND	1	0
637	Christophe Dugarry	FRANCE	21	2
638	Robert Pires	FRANCE	11	2
639	Stephane Guivarc'h	FRANCE	5	1
640	David Trezeguet	FRANCE	3	1
641	Nicolas Anelka	FRANCE	0	0
642	Jurgen Klinsmann	GERMANY	101	43
643	Ulf Kirsten	GERMANY	28	11
644	Oliver Bierhoff	GERMANY	23	13
645	Dennis Bergkamp	HOLLAND	57	33
646	Patrick Kluivert	HOLLAND	17	6
647	Pierre van Hooijdonk	HOLLAND	11	4
648	Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink	HOLLAND	0	0
649	Ali Daei	IRAN	52	38
650	Khodadad Azizi	IRAN	26	10
651	Pierluigi Casiraghi	ITALY	44	13
652	Gianfranco Zola	ITALY	35	9
653	Fabrizio Ravanelli	ITALY	21	8
654	Alessandro Del Piero	ITALY	19	7
655	Christian Vieri	ITALY	8	2
656	Enrico Chiesa	ITALY	6	3
657	Filippo Inzaghi	ITALY	4	0
658	Walter Boyd	JAMAICA	57	17
659	Paul Hall	JAMAICA	20	8
660	Deon Burton	JAMAICA	16	4
661	Kazuyoshi Miura	JAPAN	86	54
662	Carlos Hermosillo	MEXICO	89	38
663	Luis Hernandez	MEXICO	38	17
664	Salaheddine Bassir	MOROCCO	24	12
665	Daniel Amokachi	NIGERIA	43	14
666	Emmanuel Amunike	NIGERIA	25	8
667	Victor Ikpeba	NIGERIA	15	1
668	Nwankwo Kanu	NIGERIA	7	1
669	Tore Andre Flo	NORWAY	23	9
670	Egil Ostenstad	NORWAY	11	5
671	Ole Gunnar Solskjaer	NORWAY	11	5
672	Aristides Rojas	PARAGUAY	31	6
673	Miguel Angel Benitez	PARAGUAY	28	7
674	Marius Lacatus	ROMANIA	80	13
675	Viorel Moldovan	ROMANIA	22	9
676	Adrian Ilie	ROMANIA	18	2
677	Gheorghe Craioveanu	ROMANIA	17	3
678	Phil Masinga	SOUTH AFRICA	41	14
679	Benni McCarthy	SOUTH AFRICA	10	7
680	Sami Al-Jaber	SAUDI ARABIA	85	23
681	Saeed Al-Owairan	SAUDI ARABIA	55	24
682	Gordon Durie	SCOTLAND	39	7
683	Kevin Gallacher	SCOTLAND	35	8
684	Darren Jackson	SCOTLAND	22	3
685	Scott Booth	SCOTLAND	15	5
686	Simon Donnelly	SCOTLAND	6	0
687	Seo Jung-Won	SOUTH KOREA	72	16
688	Choi Yong-Soo	SOUTH KOREA	29	11
689	Alfonso Perez	SPAIN	25	8
690	Juan Antonio Pizzi	SPAIN	20	6
691	Kiko Narvaez	SPAIN	19	3
692	Raul Gonzalez	SPAIN	12	2
693	Fernando Morientes	SPAIN	1	2
694	Riadh Jelassi	TUNISIA	12	3
695	Eric Wynalda	USA	98	31
696	Brian McBride	USA	20	4
697	Dejan Savicevic	YUGOSLAVIA	49	20
698	Predrag Mijatovic	YUGOSLAVIA	27	14
699	Savo Milosevic	YUGOSLAVIA	26	14

This list will not be finalised until just before the World Cup begins, as many of the squads of 22 have not yet been announced. But remember that you are allowed unlimited changes to your team before June 10.

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Schedule for tour changed to assist Sri Lanka

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Australian Cricket Board (ACB) has switched a one-day match between Australia and Sri Lanka early next year from Sydney to Melbourne as a gesture to the large Sri Lankan community in Australia's second-largest city.

Malcom Speed, the ACB chief executive officer, said that Sri Lanka, the one-day world champions, had asked for the switch and England, who will also be involved in the three-team tournament, had agreed to co-operate.

"The Sri Lankan Board was keen to see a match against Australia in Melbourne and we are very pleased we have been able to alter the programme after discussions between the three boards," Speed said.

Sri Lanka have decided to delay their arrival in Australia and as a consequence their number of warm-up matches has been reduced from four to three. England have arranged an additional match against the Bradman XI, on New Year's Day.

Greg Chappell, the former Australia captain, was yesterday appointed coach to South Australia, 25 years after leaving the state to captain Queensland.

Chappell, one of Australia's greatest batsmen since Bradman, has been recruited to improve South Australia's performances in the Sheffield Shield. They finished in last place in the tournament in 1997 and 1998 after winning it in 1996.

"All I can try to do is call on my experience and knowledge to come up with things that can help them in the areas they feel they need help," Chappell said. In addition to coaching the side, Chappell will also develop new talent for future state and national sides. "Greg's exceptional experience makes him an outstanding choice," Mike Deare, the South Australian Cricket Association chief executive, said.

Chappell, 49, made his first-class debut for South Australia in 1966-67 and went on to captain the team before accepting a lucrative contract from Queensland in 1973. He replaced his brother, Ian, as Australia's captain in 1975-76 and scored 7,110 runs for his country at an average of 53.86.

Chappell is also remembered for his part in the infamous underarm delivery in a limited-overs international against New Zealand in 1981. Chappell ordered his brother, Trevor, to bowl underarm to remove any possibility of Brian McKechnie winning the match by hitting the final ball for six.

ITINERARY

REVISED SCHEDULE: Oct 29 1998: ACB Chairman's XI v England (Perth). Oct 31-Nov 3: Western Australia v England (Perth). Nov 7-10: South Australia v England (Adelaide). Nov 13-16: Queensland v England (Cairns). Nov 20-24: First Test, Australia v England (Brisbane). Nov 28-Dec 2: Second Test, Australia v England (Perth). Dec 5-8: Victoria v England (Melbourne). Dec 11-15: Third Test, Australia v England (Adelaide). Dec 17: Prime Minister's XI v England (Canberra). Dec 19-22: Australian XI v England (Hobart). Dec 26-30: Fourth Test, Australia v England (Melbourne). Jan 1 1999: Bradman XI v England (Bowral). Jan 2-6: Fifth Test, Australia v England (Sydney). Jan 8: Queensland v England (Brisbane). Jan 10: Australia v England (Brisbane). Jan 11: England v Sri Lanka (Brisbane). Jan 15: Australia v England (Melbourne). Jan 17: Australia v England (Sydney). Jan 19: England v Sri Lanka (Melbourne). Jan 23: England v Sri Lanka (Adelaide). Jan 26: Australia v England (Adelaide) Jan 29: England v Sri Lanka (Perth). Feb 3: England v Sri Lanka (Sydney) Feb 5: Australia v England (Sydney). Feb 10: First limited-overs final (Sydney). Feb 12: Second limited-overs final (Melbourne). Feb 14: Third limited-overs final (Melbourne).

England captaincy candidate remains baffled by his two rejection slips



Hussain remains ambitious but is presenting a more reflective, less intense personality and believes his "angry young man" image should be consigned to the past. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Hussain dogged by old faults and suspicions

ALAN LEE



When the England team reconvened at the Oval on Tuesday, Nasser Hussain was across London at Uxbridge, preparing to perform on the less exalted platform of the Axa League. As he had hoped to be captaining England this week, and most certainly expected to be playing, a sense of baffled alienation was inevitable.

"It's been a bad month," he admitted with a shallow smile. "I have had two disappointing blows to contend with." Two rejection slips, he might have said, and between mouthfuls of toast and coffee in a sunlit hotel garden, it became clear that this most complex and intriguing of England cricketers could understand neither of them.

Within hours of expressing his bewilderment, Hussain's turbulent month had taken another twist. An injury to Graham Thorpe brought a summons to the Oval, a chance to prove that he should always be in England's best one-day side. He was only in the ranks and he was something of an afterthought, but the width of his grin revealed the sense of release, of readmission to his favourite club.

Hussain's previous innings for England was a century in the Antigua Test match, late in March. No sooner had it ended in a slapstick run-out and the match in a shattering defeat by an innings than he had to absorb the news of Michael Atherton's resignation and his own exclusion from the subsequent one-day series.

Both, he said, were shocks. True to his character, which surprisingly is that of an introvert, he reacted with a period of silence but, once the first distress and disappointment had passed, he made two decisions. He wanted to succeed Atherton as captain and he intended to win back a place in the England one-day team. He failed on both counts. Alec Stewart won what became a two-horse race to be captain — though not, as it turns out, of the one-day side — and the final batting place in the selected Texaco Trophy party went not to Hussain, as widely expected, but to Darren Maddy.

This would be an overdose of bad news for anyone, let alone for a man of intense ambition.

Occasionally, through his career, Hussain has raged discordantly against personal setbacks, provoking confrontation and censure. The red mists are a familiar foe and though he said he is more philosophical now, the past month has tested him sorely.

"When you miss out on any job in life, it's natural to wonder why, to ask yourself what the people making the decision thought it was you couldn't do. I've done a lot of that in the last few weeks," he said. The impression he gives, though, is that he has not come up with many answers, just the vague and unwelcome knowledge that he lacks support where it matters.

Rightly or wrongly, Hussain is the subject of suspicion. There is, within the game, an unease when his name is mentioned, an implicit message that he is not to be entrusted with authority for fear that he might do something unspeakable. For this reason, more than for any technical or tactical defects, his candidature as captain was probably doomed.

Hussain is aware of this view and can even understand its genesis. He has not, after all, been a paragon. What he cannot reconcile is that the lapses of his younger days are still held against him and that what he considers the more mature 30-year-old model is judged on history and hearsay. When David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, telephoned to break the news that he would not be captain — at least, not yet — Hussain did not accept it in stoical silence. He wanted a reason, a justification for the failure of something he had made a crusade.

"I had made no claims on the job while 'Ath' was still there. It wouldn't have been right," he said. "He had been very loyal to me and everyone who played under him was fully behind him. But when he stood down, I spoke to the people in the dressing-room I know well — the likes of Thorpe, Tufnell and Butcher — and to my wife, Karen, and decided it was what I wanted to do.

"I did a couple of radio interviews and threw my hat into the ring. I wanted people to know I would love to do it, that I didn't feel I would let anyone down. I can't pretend it didn't matter to me that I missed out. I was very disappointed, especially when I knew how close it had been. However much I had tried to put it out of my mind, I'd thought about how my life might be about to change.

"During that weekend, I started to think 'why not me?' and to wonder whether the selectors still believed some of the press I attract, some of that 'angry young man' thing. I accept there might be areas I still have to improve. What is definitely not true is that I'm angry.

"I used to be, because I was given a taste of playing for England and then I lost it. I desperately wanted it back and I did a couple of things I shouldn't have done. But now I'm doing exactly what I always wanted to do. I've played 20 consecutive Tests, scored runs, been vice-captain and had some great moments. Why should I be angry?

"If anything could test my character, it was the tour this winter. In the space of two Tests I was out to the seventh ball of an over, got a poor caught-behind decision, a ball that shot straight along the deck and a high leg-before. The younger Hussain would have done something stupid, but I just walked off. The match referee even patted me on the back for it."

In the midst of that bizarre sequence, which restricted him to 21 runs in five innings, Hussain revealingly sought reassurance from his friend, Thorpe. "Mentally, he is the toughest bloke in the side and I would knock on his door of an evening and he would tell me what I needed to hear." This, perhaps, says more about Hussain than it does about Thorpe. The flashes of temperament, the misconception of arrogance, conceal a basic shyness and insecurity, a desperation to succeed and be accepted. He acknowledged all this, even agreed that he is "different", but contended that this is no barrier to captaincy.

"I get on well with players like Thorpe, Tufnell, Gough. I know them inside out and I think I could get the best out of them, because I've been a bit of a character, a bit of a rebel, myself," he said. "Cricket is a team game played by individuals and they are not all going to be squeaky clean. You need to understand they are all different and that you can't just line them up and tell them how it is going to be done. I felt I could handle all that."

What, though, of the opinion that he is just too self-absorbed to lead? Atherton, who has known him since schooldays, said: "The interesting thing about Nasser is the passion and emotion that burns inside. It is primarily a desire to fulfil himself as an international cricketer, which is sometimes read, or misread, as selfishness."

Hussain does not duck the issue. "Athers, as captain, was as unselfish as any cricketer I've known. I've always admired that. But I think I am clever enough to know you behave one way as a player, another way as vice-captain and in a completely different way as captain of your country.

"Maybe I'm naive, but I hoped people would give me credit for working out that if I was captain, the needs of the team would be far greater than my own. There would be no way I could throw gear around and sit brooding for half an hour."

The selectors were unimpressed by this insistence that captaincy would produce instant metamorphosis. Graveney travelled to talk to Hussain a fortnight ago and offered some of the required explanations. What he did not do was prepare Hussain for the second blow.

"I'd been batting well for Essex and I honestly thought I would be chosen in the one-day side," he said. "I've shown in Test cricket that I can adapt, batting quickly or slowly, and I feel I am the best fielder in the country in all positions. I also desperately wanted to be picked, because I still haven't played a one-day international in England."

Last Sunday, when the team was announced, Hussain admitted to feeling "slightly numb". As acting captain of Essex, he quickly had to rouse himself for a match in Durham, but it was not easy. "I don't want to get on the wrong side of the selectors but I am puzzled about it," he admitted.

Hussain will have brighter months, probably quite soon. A certainty for the Test team, he will compete with the steely, spiky determination that frequently upsets opponents and he will care only for making runs and winning. He has one of the best cricket brains in the country and, one day, he will make a captain. He knows all this, for he is not short of intelligence or self-assurance. He also knows he feels just a little unloved.

"The lapses of his younger days are still held against him and what he considers a more mature model judged on history and hearsay"

England expected to resolve middle-order muddle



Croft has looked the most likely wicket-taker against South Africa. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THERE is time enough yet, of course, but if the greatest of one-day cricket prizes is to be won next year, England's management must conclude their experiments pretty soon and come up with a batting order sufficiently strong of mind and method to produce competitive scores as a habit rather than a change.

England will have many advantages when the seventh World Cup is staged here this time next year — home grounds, partisan crowds and familiar weather — but such benefits will be eroded if they cannot stiffen their batting. They have failed to reach 250 in any of their past four internationals and modern one-day games are seldom won below that benchmark.

It was the batting that malfunctioned first in the Caribbean, when consecutive totals of 209 and 149 on St Vincent were so woefully indefensible that the series was lost before the bowling and fielding came wearily to grief in Trinidad.

The latest, remodelled batting order would arguably be harshly judged on the evidence of their labouring at the Oval on Thursday, when conditions, at least for the first half of their innings, were challenging. The prevailing weather, though, was typical of an English May and South Africa — helped admittedly by the toss — coped the better despite their brief acclimatisation.

England have two further chances, at Old Trafford today and Headingley tomorrow, not just to retain the Texaco Trophy in its final year of existence but to prevent selectors reaching for the Tipp-Ex once again. Graeme Hick, who was making his 98th first-class hundred while England toiled at the Oval, must be one who feels that his largely disappointing international career need not be over.

England may present the loss of Graham Thorpe in their defence. His back problems have now discounted him from five successive one-day internationals and England have lost the lot. Thorpe has become the best player in the side, technically accomplished and mentally resilient. He will miss the two remaining Texaco games but England will be anxious he regains full mobility before the Test series begins at Edgbaston in less than a fortnight.

Without Thorpe as its rock, the middle-order has been England's problem area in recent one-day matches. The trio favoured in the Caribbean of Ben Hollioake, Hick and Ramprakash were set aside for this tournament in favour of Adams, Hussain and Maddy. They did not make a stirring start.

Adams seemed beset by nerves, which may be forgiven in one who has waited many years, and through considerable county strife, for his chance. Hussain simply played an ill-judged shot after an innings promising authority, while Maddy had barely scored his first England run when he played horribly across the off-spin of Symcox. To judge their credentials fairly, however, the two newcomers must be given their head again this weekend, when the only England change might be the stability of Fraser for the extravagance of Lewis.

Already, though, Maddy's inclusion at No 5 is a cause for unease. This young, hyperactive cricketer, praised to the skies by such demanding observers as Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, is likely to be Michael Atherton's opening partner in the first Test. Batting down the order in three limited-overs games may worry and deflate him more than prepare him. Maddy, though, is perky and resolute and his optimism remains high. "They may have played better than us today but I don't think they're as good a side as we are," he said.

This, perhaps, is to make the mistake of assessing the component parts rather than the whole. South Africa do not, it is true, look an intimidating team on paper but they have an indomitable spirit to go with their depth and athleticism. Their fielding was breathtaking on Thursday, providing a comparison with Ashley Giles's fumbling of the first ball of the South Africa reply over the boundary for four.

Giles will never be Jonty Rhodes but he can have an influence on this series, and beyond. After early punishment from Kallis, he bowled his left-arm spin cleverly and, with Croft once more the most obvious wicket-taker, England's best hope of undermining the South Africans is with spin. First, though, they have to make enough runs.

TODAY'S DETAILS

ENGLAND (from): N V Knight, A J Stewart, C J Adams, N Hussain, D L Maddy, A J Hollioake (captain), M A Ealham, C C Lewis, A F Giles, R D B Croft, D Gough, M V Fleming, A D Brown, A R C Fraser

SOUTH AFRICA (probable): G Kirsten, G F J Liebenberg, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, W J Cronje (captain), J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, M V Boucher, L Klusener, P L Symcox, A A Donald.

Umpires: D R Shepherd and R Julian. Third umpire: B Dudleston. Match referee: Javed Burki (Pakistan).

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 10.30am (today and tomorrow). Radio: Live on BBC Radio 4 (Long Wave), from 10.30am (today and tomorrow)

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Patient James awaits his turn

BY JOHN STERN

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Glamorgan have a first-innings lead of 391 runs over Northamptonshire

IT IS almost inconceivable that a man who has just made 227, having been the nation's leading run-scorer in 1997, should consider himself leagues away from England selection. However, that is Steve James's modest analysis of his standing in the pecking order of candidates to open the batting in the forthcoming Test series against South Africa.

By his reckoning, James, 30, who made 1,775 first-class runs last year, is, at least, behind Darren Maddy, Nick Knight and Michael Atherton, not to mention Mark Butcher. However, his innings yesterday, the sixth-highest first-class score by a Glamorgan batsman, made against an attack containing three pace bowlers with Test experience warrants close scrutiny.

Devon Malcolm and Franklyn Rose were not at their best by any means, both pitching too short too often, and their figures of three for 144 and two for 130 respectively are unflattering. This pitch was used for an under-19 international last summer in which both England and Zimbabwe passed 500. Unfortunately for the home side, they have had by far the worst of the conditions.

James, 123 not out overnight, set the tone for another day of chasing leather for the Northamptonshire fielders when he cut the second ball of the day from Rose for four. Two more boundaries in Malcolm's second over of the morning, confirmed that James had his sights well set.



James: double-century

His shot selection was so impressive as was the way he paced his innings. His second fifty was extremely brisk but when Michael Powell was tucking into the bowling yesterday morning, James was happy just to occupy the crease. When he had 160, he passed the previous highest score by a Glamorgan batsman at Wantage Road and in the first over after lunch, he reached the third double-century of his career with a pull off Sales.

In the shadow of an innings of such class, centuries by Powell, his first in the championship, and the acting captain Tony Cottey are liable to be unfairly forgotten. Powell's was an opportunistic innings and he was dropped twice while Cottey, loving the challenge of the short ball offered by the quicks, reached his century off 113 balls, including a marvellous hooked six off Malcolm. His dismissal for 113 ended the Glamorgan innings at 563 all out, the county's highest score against Northamptonshire.

The sight of Waqar Younis marking out his run below a rapidly darkening sky was enough to make the umpires, Leadbeater and Cowley, reach for their light meters. So Glamorgan's quest for their second championship victory of the season begins in earnest this morning.

Lively Giddins keeps batsmen on the hop

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 71 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire

THE question arises once more: what makes a good pitch? Is it the one at Uxbridge, where Worcestershire ran up 627 before declaring as they sought to pound Middlesex into oblivion, or is it the one here, which has played ducks and drakes with the batsmen since the first ball took a divot? Are they both good pitches, or is neither?

The umpires will not be reporting the pitch at Edgbaston, though they might wonder privately why Warwickshire feel it necessary to prepare so green a seamer for the visit of a team they would expect to beat six times out of ten on a more even surface. Unless the weather intervenes, this match will not cut deep into the fourth day and it may not stretch that far.

There has been only one casualty so far, Wayne Noon, whose left little finger was broken when a ball from Brown rose to bite him like a robber's dog. Most of the trouble has come from balls creeping, not leaping, but this pitch is nothing if not versatile. Noon will take no further part in this match and he now loses his place to Chris Read, the England A wicketkeeper recruited from Gloucestershire.

It is fair to say, therefore, that by any standard the players would accept as reasonable this is not a good pitch. The ball has been permitted to do far too much, and, although some of the batting has lacked distinction, it cannot do anybody any good when bowlers are rewarded for performances that are no better. When a beginner like Sheikh wobbles the ball about like Tom Cartwright, and Dowman, an occasional medium-pacer, if that, is entrusted to bowl a lengthy spell early in the Warwickshire second innings, then the mind is entitled to boggle. This is not the sort of game for a man like Lara, who batted like a cavalier in the last hour, knowing that every ball might be his undoing.



Noon: broken finger

There was one good bowling performance and it was no surprise that Giddins supplied it. He has settled quickly at Edgbaston, conveying a sense of fun to the members, who have warmed to his bantering ways, though that should not disguise the seriousness of his mission, which is to become as good a player as he can.

For a little while yesterday morning Giddins made almost as much noise as the Nottinghamshire fielders the day before, and he had greater cause. He beat out a tattoo on the batsmen's pads during a 14-over spell and saw umpire Jones turn down at least half a dozen shouts by the time Dowman pulled a bouncer to long leg.

Johnson, carrying on where he had left off the previous evening, looking for runs at all times, had gone by then, after tickling Sheikh's first ball. The last ball of that over also brought a wicket, when Lara snaffled a smart catch at first slip to dismiss Gie. For a man with such good hands he doesn't half miss a lot.

Giddins is a natural swinger of the ball, which, allied to the decent pace he can find, makes him a handy performer, as Trevor Bailey might say. He will not lack opportunity at Warwickshire, a team that is used to winning things and, even when they are not, playing cricket with a purpose. Nobody needs to remind him he has much to play for.

By scattering the stumps of the tailenders he finished the innings with four wickets. When Warwickshire went in again, Johnson, keeping wicket in Noon's place, took two catches before Warwickshire had removed the deficit but Lara was still there at nightfall, by which time Powell had made his second fifty of a low-scoring match.

Stubborn Holloway rescues Somerset

BY JOHN THICKNESSE

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with six second-innings wickets in hand, lead Surrey by 194 runs

THERE was a moment at Taunton when Surrey may have thought that they had the beating of Somerset inside two days and when one or two of the Somerset players, not least their captain, Peter Bowler, might also fleetingly have considered that a likely outcome.

For when Mark Lathwell, chasing a wide half-volley, was caught at the wicket for nought early in the afternoon, it rounded off for Somerset a session that should make them shudder with embarrassment every time they think of it.

With three top batsmen out, and their self-respect in shreds, they were still 35 runs short of wiping out a first-innings deficit of 65 in conditions still favouring the seam bowlers.

But then, in Piran Holloway, their compact left-handed opener, they found a saviour. First with Keith Parsons, in an aggressive stand of 42, then with Robert Turner, the wicketkeeper, who in 60 overs helped him stage an unbroken 187 partnership, Holloway resolutely played Somerset into a position from which they had a likely chance of victory themselves.

After four sessions in which the ball had for lengthy periods swung and seamed extensively, batting grew steadily easier. It was only in the 158th over of the contest that a spinner, Ian Salisbury, was employed, although he was unable to make an impact on proceedings.

Such was the position of the match, however, and the quality of Surrey's seamers — in Tudor's case, his pace as well — that despite a quick outfield, Holloway and Turner still needed 32 overs for the first hundred of their partnership.



Holloway: resolute

Holloway, 5ft 8in, who has the reputation of being an especially good player in a crisis, drove firmly in a 289-minute hundred, the sixth of his career. But his best stroke was a hooked six off Tudor, so fiercely struck that it lodged between uprights of a wooden fence 80 yards away.

Except for Caddick's bowling, Somerset's performance until Lathwell's dismissal was abysmal. With Surrey only 20 runs behind at 156 for seven at the restart, there was a fair chance the morning session might decide the match.

From Caddick's sixth ball, however, Batty, carving him head-high to Lathwell in the covers, survived the first of three lives in successive overs, with his score on 25, 26 and 27. If the first was on the sharp side, the next two should have been routine.

But first off Rose, then Caddick, Bowler, deepish at first slip, dropped Batty two-handed off edges nicked straight at him. The fates were unforgiving: when Salisbury was last out for a well-played 51, 20 overs had brought Surrey an extra 85 runs.

CRICKET: LONG INJURY LIST LEAVES ESSEX HANDICAPPED BY LACK OF BALANCE IN ATTACK

Fairbrother airs favourite strokes

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 24 runs behind Lancashire

AN amalgam of ability, concentration, and luck has been required to make runs at Chelmsford over the last two days. The one batsman to have coped with the conditions, to have ensured that the bad ball has almost always gone to the boundary, has been Neil Fairbrother, who, lest it be easily forgotten, was once thought to have a lengthy England career ahead of him. At the age of 34 he remains, as he showed in making his first century of the season yesterday, a considerable county player.

In the 16 years in which Fairbrother has traversed the county circuit, most bowlers, or at least most good ones, would have learned of his strengths. Like all small batsmen, he has a fondness for the cut and the pull, and he plays both these shots better than just about any other Englishman. Those areas of strength, though, were just where Essex bowled at him for much of his innings.

Of his 20 fours, seven went in the arc between third man and point. A further five went through the covers, mostly punched off the back foot. Four more were pulled. Like most modern captains, Stuart Law, who admittedly will have seen less of Fairbrother than most, did not always choose to protect the third-man boundary, and that did not profit him.

This was Fairbrother's 38th first-class century of a career which, unfairly or otherwise, will be remembered chiefly for his prowess at the one-day game. It is a reputation that he disdains, for good reason when he bats like this. When he came in, Ilott was relishing obtaining some swing — his initial spell was 5-2-3-2 — and having removed, as well as Wood, the former England captain, Atherton was bowled off his pads, aiming to leg.



Atherton, having attempted to play a ball from Ilott to leg, turns to see that he has been bowled off his pads

When Crawley went, bowled pushing forward at Irani, Lancashire were 44 for three. What they do possess, though, is batting in depth. Wasim Akram and Hegg both failed to score in the afternoon, and yet there was Flintoff in the middle order to drive through the line of the ball, Watkinson to make useful runs and, significantly, a tail-ender in Chapple who can just about be considered a proper all-rounder.

This is not because he once scored a century off 27 balls, for those were contrived circumstances, but for his ability to bat with circumspection as he did here. Having already taken five wickets and held three catches, he contributed 31 to a partnership of 103 with Fairbrother without recourse only to propping up an end. When he was eventually caught at short leg off Danny Law, Lancashire were in a position of some strength.

Fairbrother, dropped at the wicket off Irani when he had made 95, went at the same score, 285, caught at deep square leg. This was the shot of a tired man, for he had been at the wicket for five hours. He faced 227 balls, and batted, all in all, like the old pro he is. Lancashire had a first innings lead of 72, although that may become less significant if, as can be the case at Chelmsford, the pitch becomes more conducive to batting by the third or fourth day.

It is, in fact, a good cricket wicket, for there is something in it for the quicker bowlers — Essex do not have one fit spinner at the moment, unless they take Childs away from his second XI coaching — and yet the likes of Fairbrother can still middle their attacking shots. Danny Law finished with four wickets, Cousins with problems with his run-up and Stuart Law with some worries over the tactical nous of his attack.

The two slow bowlers, Such and Grayson, are injured as, of course, is Cowan. Small wonder that Essex have yet to win a championship match this season. Their openers, Robinson and Flanagan, batted without undue concern against Wasim Akram and Chapple before the close.

McLean shows raw talent

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 239 runs behind Hampshire

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THERE may not be a quicker bowler in county cricket this season than Nixon McLean. When he finds the line and rhythm to complement his blinding pace he will be a formidable opponent. Indeed, it is easy to imagine him following West Indian fast bowlers of the past in using the experience of an English summer to establish himself as a force in Test cricket.

There were times at Grace Road yesterday when the Leicestershire batsmen could not lay a bat upon him because he bowled so wide and when the agility of Adrian Aymes, the wicketkeeper, was tested to the full. But he also claimed three of his five wickets with balls that were straight and simply too fast.

Figures of five for 45 from his four spells tell their own story of destruction. Robin Smith, the captain, will settle for such a return as a norm in the months ahead, especially if runs are conceded more dearly at the other end.

Leicestershire resume still 90 short of the follow-on target of 212 after bad light accounted for around a third of the second day. In the first hour yesterday, Aymes extended his career-best score to 133 in 344 minutes before Wells beat his defensive prod, and Udal continued to 44 before Mullally took the edge. Mullally claimed his fifth wicket when Hartley offered another catch to Nixon after a lusty cameo.

Wells and Sutcliffe escorted Leicestershire into lunch unscathed, but both suffered early in the second session. A thick edge from Wells whistled into the midriff of Keech at second slip and Sutcliffe fell leg-before when McLean allied line to length.

Smith responded in enterprising fashion, seven of his first eight scoring strokes fizzing to the boundary. However, he was left to regret declining an invitation to come off for bad light when McLean flattened his off stump. His disposition could not have been improved when a second invitation was offered and accepted before Simmons, his replacement, took guard.

Play resumed after more than an hour, but Leicestershire added just eight runs before McLean forced Simmons, his fellow Trinidadian, to chop on to his stumps. Two balls later, he conceded four byes. McLean is a raw talent, but a talent nonetheless, as was further emphasised when he bowled Dakin before grey clouds curtailed play for a third and final occasion.

Hutchison battles alone

GLOUCESTER (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 344 runs ahead of Yorkshire

BY JACK BAILEY

EVEN THE admirable efforts of Paul Hutchison as he spent all day in the middle, either batting, bowling or fielding, could not help Yorkshire to escape from the sort of dire trouble that lurked in wait for a team that bats indifferently against the likes of Courtney Walsh and Mike Smith. Individuals such as White and Hutchison may have prospered in this match, but the team has not.

More, much more, was needed than Hutchison's obdurate innings lasting 3¾ hours for an undefeated 23. He entered the lists on Thursday evening as nightwatchman and stayed until he ran out of partners. There were glimmers of hope elsewhere before Yorkshire subsided to 143 — from Darren Lehmann and Craig White especially — but only the weariness of Gloucestershire's strike force prevented Yorkshire from having to follow on 186 behind.

In spite of his own energy-sapping efforts with the bat, Hutchison wheeled in to dismiss Macmillan in the first over of Gloucestershire's second innings and Michael Hoggard found a good one for Hancock to gain his first championship wicket with only four on the board. But then Alleyne coasted past 50 in 68 balls and Wright assisted solidly in a stand which sailed past the century mark and sent Gloucestershire into a lead of more than 300.

The way to a decent score lay open for Yorkshire even though they had lost McGrath overnight and even accounting for the fact that Walsh and Smith are as good a pair with the new ball as they are likely to encounter. Yet the tone set by Vaughan's dismissal, bowled through the gate by the inswinging last ball of Smith's first over, somehow endured throughout the innings.

Byas was pouched at mid-wicket, fending off a lifter from Walsh and at 23 for three, only Lehmann and White stood between Yorkshire and disaster.

Lehmann is a fine player. He took on Smith and Walsh and he looked like winning. Resolution and aggression were in harness as he thumped the ball off the back foot. His 41 from 35 balls included eight fours.

But then Walsh's slower ball pierced his defence. When White and Wood fell to successive balls from Lewis, it was virtually the end of Yorkshire's innings and now defeat looms large.

ROWING

Regatta entry backs chairman's decision

PETER POLITZER'S "agonising decision" to drop the Junior 14 events from the national schools regatta this year was proved correct yesterday when the entry for this weekend was received (Mike Rosewell writes). The events chairman had made the decision as the regatta had doubled in size in a decade, ruling that it was not viable to extend the event to three days.

The regatta will still attract the biggest crowds of the year to Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. In the men's eights, St Edward's, winners of the schools head in record time, must start as top contenders. They face St Paul's and King's, Chester, both good crews, and ster and Bedford, in their heat.

Radley, the title-holders, could struggle to make the final in the other heat, which features Hampton and Abingdon, of proven early-season speed, Eton, with Great Britain squad contenders, and Shrewsbury. In the women's eights, Lady Eleanor Holles look set to win their sixth successive title.

James Di-Luzio, of Mortlake Anglian, defends his sculls title after illness. The women's sculls includes three girls of world standard, Frances Houghton, from King's, Canterbury, Rebecca Romero, of Kingston, and Debbie Flood, of Tideway Scullers.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Second Texaco Trophy
one-day international
10.45, 50 overs
OLD TRAFFORD: England v South Africa

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Lancashire
GLOUCESTER: Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Durham
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Hampshire
UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Worcestershire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan
TAUNTON: Somerset v Surrey
HORSHAM: Sussex v Derbyshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

FOOTBALL

International matches
England v Saudi Arabia
(at Wembley, 3.0)
Ireland v Mexico
(at Lansdowne Road, 3.0)
Under-21 international match
Italy v Scotland
(in Castel di Sangro, 7.30)
Toulon under-21 international tournament final
Argentina v France (7.0)
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Qualifying match: Scotland v Czech Republic (at Caledonian Stadium, Inverness, 2.0).

RUGBY UNION

Sanyo Cup
World XV v Newcastle
(at Twickenham, 3.15)
Allied Dunbar Premiership Play-offs
Bristol v London Scottish (3.0)
Under-21 international match
England v France
(at Twickenham, 12.50)
Swalec Cup Final
Ebbw Vale v Llanelli
(at Ashton Gate, Bristol, 3.0)
RFUW SEVENS (at Petersfield).

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
Sheffield v Leeds (3.15)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: European lightweight championship: B Schwer (Luton, holder) v M Fernandes (Fr)
EQUESTRIANISM: Windsor three-day event
GOLF: PGA championship (at Wentworth)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Coventry v Belle Vue (7.30); Eastbourne v Ipswich (7.30) Premier League: Stoke v Isle of Wight (7.0). Premier League Cup: Berwick v Newcastle (7.0)

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Third Texaco Trophy
one-day international
11.0, 50 overs
HEADINGLEY: England v South Africa
Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, final day of four, 96 overs minimum
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Lancashire
GLOUCESTER: Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Durham
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Hampshire
UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Worcestershire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan
TAUNTON: Somerset v Surrey
HORSHAM: Sussex v Derbyshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Hurst CC: Berkshire v Herefordshire Bovey Tracy: Devon v Dorset. Sleaford: Lincolnshire v Bedfordshire. Swindon CC: Wiltshire v Wales.

FOOTBALL

International match
Colombia v Scotland
(at Giants Stadium, New York, 2.30)
Nationwide League
Second division play-off final
Grimsby v Northampton
(at Wembley, 3.0)
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Qualifying match: Wales v Belarus (at Haverfordwest FC, 3.0).

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership Play-offs
London Irish v Rotherham (3.0)
HENLEY SEVENS (from 12 noon).
RFUW SEVENS (at Petersfield)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
Halifax v St Helens (3.0)
London v Salford (3.0)
First division
Dewsbury v Rochdale (3.0)
Hunslet v Swinton (3.30)
Leigh v Keighley (3.0)
Whitehaven v Wakefield (3.30)
Widnes v Featherstone (3.0)
Second division
Barrow v Bramley (3.0)
Batley v Lancashire Lynx (3.15)
Doncaster v Workington (3.0)
York v Oldham (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Windsor three-day event.
GOLF: PGA championship (at Wentworth).
MOTOR RACING: British touring car championship (at Oulton Park).
SPEEDWAY: Premier League Cup: Glasgow v Newcastle (1.30); Newport v Arena Essex (2.30) Premier League team championship: Newcastle v Berwick v Edinburgh v Glasgow (7.30).



CRICKET

Middlesex make light work of hefty task

BY PAT GIBSON

UXBRIDGE (second day of four): Middlesex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 473 runs behind Worcestershire

IF MARK Ramprakash felt embarrassed about becoming the first Middlesex captain to concede more than 600 runs in a championship match, it did not show as he and Justin Langer set about proving that anything Graeme Hick and Tom Moody could do on a batsman's paradise of a pitch, they could do even better.

Ramprakash, whose belated arrival as a genuine Test batsman in the West Indies during the winter is just one more reason why Hick will struggle to earn a recall to the England side, and Langer, whose appetite for runs is proved by the fact that he has turned five of his 20 first-class hundreds into double centuries, had put on 126 by the close.

It made the 478 required to avoid the follow-on seem much less intimidating. Only three times since Middlesex were formed in 1864 have sides scored more than 600 against them. Oxford University, obviously a better side then, made 612 in 1876, The Rest declared at 603 for five in 1920 and the West Indies reached 665 in 1939.

Moody, the Worcestershire captain, called a halt yesterday at 627 for six, the highest score made at Uxbridge and the highest in the championship this season. It was scant consolation to Middlesex that they were the last county to be hit for more than 600 in a championship match. All the rest have suffered the indignity.

To be fair to Ramprakash, there was not a lot he could do about it in such benign batting conditions, though the day began well enough for him. Worcestershire had added only one to their overnight 435 for four and Moody had not improved on his 132 when he could not get his bat down quickly enough from his great height and was leg-before to Johnson, the only bowler to get anything out of the pitch.

Johnson even went on to rap Leatherdale painfully on the fingers with a ball which bounced from a length. It was the only delivery that misbehaved all day, however, and Leatherdale and Rhodes had few further problems in putting on 191 in 54 overs for the sixth wicket.

Leatherdale, who finally came into his own as a county cricketer in his tenth season last year when he averaged 57 and was selected as Worcestershire's player of the year, had made 137, hitting a six and 18 fours, when he played on to Shah. Rhodes, as nimble as ever at 33, lent willing support.

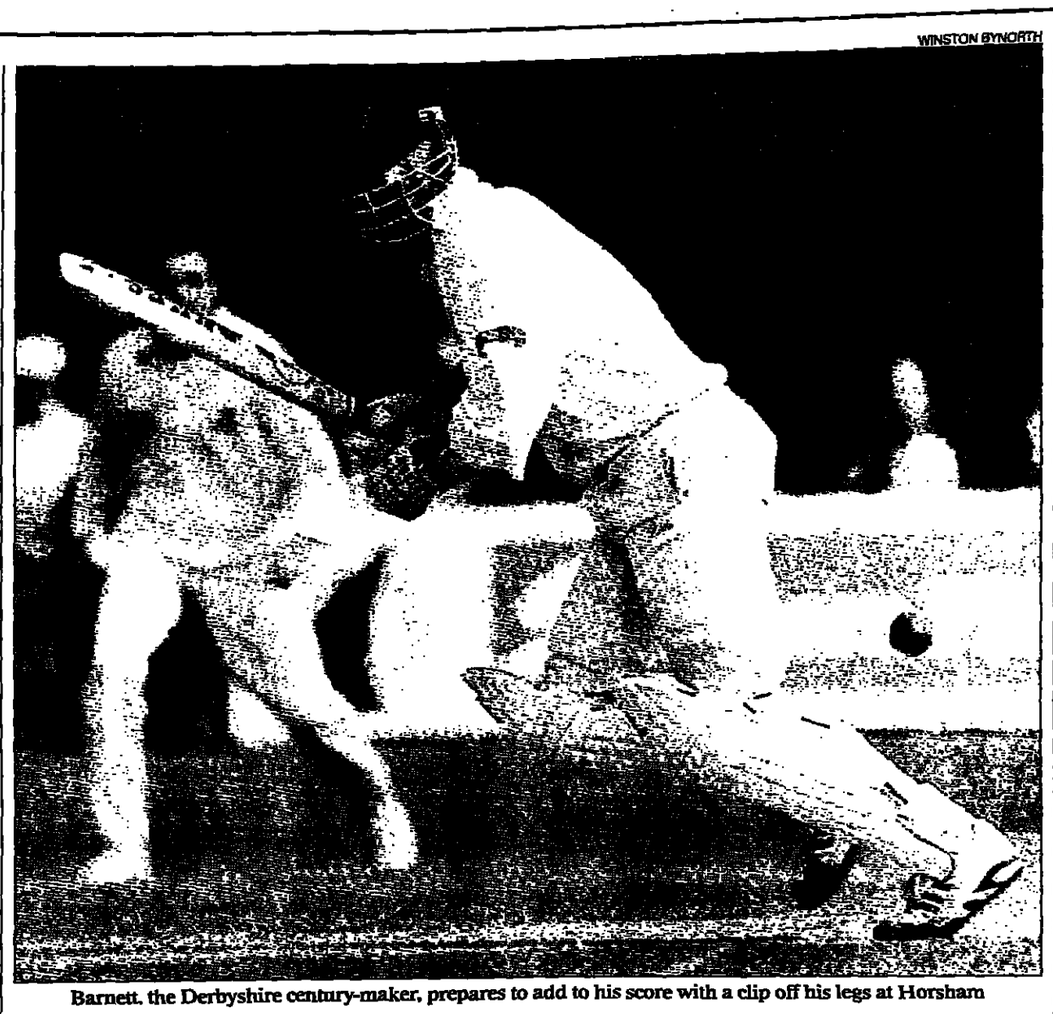
Moody clearly felt that, by going on for so long, he might have intimidated Middlesex. His hopes were raised in the eleventh over when the willing Newport produced a good one to have Kettleborough leg-before.

Langer, however, who plays alongside Moody in the Western Australia side, was quickly into his familiar scoring pattern, and with Ramprakash striking the ball sweetly as well, the Worcestershire bowlers were soon suffering just as much as Middlesex's had done.

Worcestershire had more variety with the swing of Newport, the pace of Sheriyar, the seam of Lampitt and Haynes and the spin of Illingworth and Solanki, but the pitch remained unforgiving to any lapses in line or length.

Langer had nine fours in his 69 off 123 balls and Ramprakash 11 fours in his 65 off 110 balls. Both will look for greater things today.

WINSTON BYNORTH



Barnett, the Derbyshire century-maker, prepares to add to his score with a clip off his legs at Horsham

Controversy spurs on Barnett

BY RUPERT COX

HORSHAM (second day of four): Derbyshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 41 runs ahead of Sussex

A DASHING fourth-wicket stand of 254 in 74 overs between Kim Barnett and Matthew Cassar, the highest Derbyshire partnership for any wicket against Sussex, took the visitors into a position of command at Cricket Field Road over their second-placed hosts.

Barnett, who received a muted reception in the wake of his newspaper revelations about Chris Adams, the Sussex captain, who left Derbyshire in the close-season — plundered his 53rd first-class century.

Barnett's accomplice, Cassar, a Sydney-born all-rounder married to the England women's wicketkeeper, Jane, hit a robust maiden century. Their partnership usurped the 215 accumulated by Albert Alderman and Leslie Townsend at Eastbourne in 1938, and was marked by powerful strokeplay.

Coming together when Adrian Rollins misjudged a short ball from Paul Jarvis after making a fluent 58 in 59 balls, they maintained a steady rate of four runs an over. Barnett, standing with all three stumps clearly visible to the bowlers and characteristically shuffling about the crease, produced a series of thumping cover drives. He was reprieved on 22 and 128, on both occasions by Wasim Khan at backward point off the luckless Jarvis.

Strong mentally, Barnett remains unafraid of controversy. In fact, it seems to spur him on. His 162 spanned 277 balls and clearly rubbed off on Cassar, who pulled and drove with relish until one indulgence too many saw him miscue a pull. His previous three championship innings this season had reaped just eight runs.

In the morning, Sussex extended their last-wicket stand to 45 before James Kirtley, in unchartered territory at 17 not out, attempted a sharp single to mid-off and was run out by a direct hit from Phillip DeFreitas. The dismissal left Mark Newell marooned after a chanceless and diligent 135 not out in 271 minutes.

Though Derbyshire score their runs at a good pace, they have displayed a tendency to lose wickets readily. The combination makes them entertaining and the arrival of Michael Slater, the Australia opener, should ensure that their batting is less brittle.

Slater's first championship innings, though, will not be one that lingers in his memory. He survived five balls until Jason Lewry, the left-armer, had him shaping to hit to leg, only for late swing to divert the ball onto his off stump.

Tim Tweats laboured nine overs for his 11 when, like Slater, he was undone by late movement. With his head toppling over to the off side, he could only clip the ball to a newly-placed short backward square leg.

While both captains have been commendably eager to employ attacking fields, their reluctance to deploy a third man has cost a hatful of runs.

Barnett, in tandem with Rollins, profited from the oversight, as defensive prods and even thick edges ran away, on a fast outfield, for boundaries. Gone were the vagaries of "playing oneself in". On a slow wicket, and one that has offered a solitary slip catch, fielders could have been better utilised.

Key turns on style as Kent take control

BY BARNEY SPENDER

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Durham, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 236 runs behind Kent

DURHAM have played some good cricket this year, but this has not been a performance that they will look back on with any fondness. Bundled out for 229 on the first day, they were made to sweat for most of the second as the Kent batsmen, led splendidly by Robert Key, who made his maiden first-class century, put the home side in a position of total control.

When Michael Gough, with his occasional off spin, removed Min Patel to claim his first first-class wicket and end the Kent innings, Durham were facing a deficit of 266. By the close, however, Gough's joy had been reversed and they face a mighty struggle to avoid defeat today.

Play began with a pointer towards Kent's future, with Key, who only turned 19 on May 12, and David Fulton, 26, continuing an opening partnership that yielded 168 before Fulton, on 65, edged a flyer from Wood to second slip. With the Cambridge pair of Ed Smith and Will House, aged 20 and 21 respectively, still waiting in the wings, the Kent supporters are entitled to rub their hands in glee about prospects for the millennium.

Key, playing in only his third championship match, resumed on 55 and played with assurance as he moved effortlessly into the eighties. He slowed up then, taking 19 overs to move from 81 to three figures, but a push through the covers for two off Simon Harmison duly made him Kent's youngest century-maker at the St Lawrence Ground. His runs came from 187 balls and included 14 fours. Three balls later, Harmison, Durham's own highly promising 19-year-old, had a measure of revenge when he knocked out his middle stump.

After Fulton's dismissal, Trevor Ward came and went, falling to a fine, stretching catch by Speight, leaving the stage set for Carl Hooper to wreak havoc on the Durham attack. Last week, in adverse conditions, he had flayed Lancashire to the tune of a double-century, but this time he got a vicious, lifting delivery from Harmison and gloved a catch to Speight.

Harmison's development has been dogged with setbacks but he looks a cricketer of no little talent. Two years ago, he made a startling three-week transition from club to international cricket when he was plucked from nowhere to play a single game for Durham at the end of the season.

He failed to take a wicket and scored only ten runs in the match, but still made the cut for the England Under-19 tour to Pakistan that winter, although a bad back and homesickness saw him come home early. Last summer, unable to bowl, he was left to languish, as a batsman, in the Ashington second XI.



Wells: denied century

His return this season has brought immediate rewards for running in hard and hitting the seam. Yesterday he picked up three for 91, knocking out Walker's middle and off stumps with a perfect yorker.

While he was firing, Durham stood a chance of keeping the deficit within respectable bounds, but a sixth-wicket partnership of 150 in 28.3 overs between Alan Wells and Steve Marsh swung the game firmly in Kent's direction. Marsh was at his battling best, smashing three sixes and 11 fours in an innings of 92 which came from 95 balls. Wells was more subdued, but looked sure to reach his century until Foster bowled him five runs short.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Lancashire

CHELMSFORD (second day of four). Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 24 runs behind Lancashire

ESSEX: First Innings 242 (S G Law 55; G Chapple 5 for 49)

Second Innings

D D J Robinson not out	17
I N Flanagan not out	24
Extras (b 4, lb 3)	7
Total (no wkt)	48

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 5-1-17-0; Chapple 6-3-20-0; Shadford 2-0-3-0, Watkinson 1-0-1-0.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

N T Wood c Rollins b Ilott	14
M A Atherton b Ilott	20
J P Crawley b Irani	1
N H Fairbrother c Flanagan b Williams	126
A Flintoff c Flanagan b Cousins	29
M Watkinson c Robinson b D R Law	40
*Wasim Akram lbw b D R Law	0
†W K Hegg c Hibbert b D R Law	0
G Chapple c Flanagan b D R Law	31
R J Green b Ilott	14
D J Shadford not out	13
Extras (lb 8, w 12, nb 6)	26
Total (107.4 overs)	314

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-41, 3-43, 4-100, 5-179, 6-181, 7-181, 8-284, 9-284

BOWLING: Ilott 23-4-8-49-3; Williams 20-5-58-1, Cousins 15-5-52-1; Irani 22-6-64-1, D R Law 22-8-70-4, Hibbert 5-1-13-0

Bonus points: Essex 5 Lancashire 7

Umpires: R A White and J Lloyds

Gloucestershire v Yorkshire

GLOUCESTER (second day of four). Gloucestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 344 runs ahead of Yorkshire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 329 (R C Russell 83 not out, A M Smith 61, G I Macmillan 53, C White 8 for 55)

Second Innings

G I Macmillan c Wood b Hutchison	0
T H C Hancock c Blakey b Hoggard	4
A J Wright c and b White	57
*M W Alleyne c Byas b Vaughan	55
M G N Windows not out	18
M J Church not out	19
Extras (b 5)	5
Total (4 wkts)	158

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-4, 3-116, 4-132

BOWLING: Hutchison 10-2-22-1, Hoggard 4-0-9-1, White 8-2-12-1, Hamilton 9-2-37-0, Silemp 9-4-22-0, Vaughan 8-0-51-1

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

A McGrath lbw b Smith	6
M P Vaughan b Smith	10
P M Hutchison not out	23
*D Byas c Church b Walsh	2
D S Lehmann b Alleyne	41
C White c Russell b Lewis	24
M J Wood lbw b Lewis	0
†R J Blakey c Russell b Walsh	14
G M Hamilton b Walsh	0
R D Stemp b Ball	6
M J Hoggard b Ball	1
Extras (b 2, lb 6, w 2, nb 6)	16
Total (62.4 overs)	143

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-20, 3-23, 4-78, 5-112, 6-112, 7-134, 8-134, 9-141

BOWLING: Walsh 19-10-30-3; Smith 13-8-15-2; Alleyne 7-0-19-1; Lewis 10-0-58-2; Ball 13.4-9-13-2.

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 7 Yorkshire 4

Umpires: R Palmer and A G T Whitehead

Kent v Durham

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Durham, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 236 runs behind Kent

DURHAM: First Innings 229 (M J Foster 76 not out, M M Patel 5 for 73)

Second Innings

J J B Lewis not out	19
M A Gough c Fulton b Headley	2
N C Phillips not out	5
Extras (nb 4)	4
Total (1 wkt)	30

FALL OF WICKET: 1-15

BOWLING: Headley 4-0-14-1; McCague 3-0-16-0, Hooper 1-1-0-0

KENT: First Innings

D P Fulton c Collingwood b Wood	65
R W T Key b Harmison	101
T R Ward c Speight b Betts	19
C L Hooper c Speight b Harmison	1
A P Wells b Foster	95
M J Walker b Harmison	13
*†S A Marsh c Speight b Foster	92
D W Headley st Speight b Phillips	31
M M Patel lbw b Gough	24
M J McCague b Phillips	0
A P Igglesden not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 16, w 16, nb 17)	53
Total	495

Score at 120 overs: 473-7

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-168, 2-207, 3-209, 4-216, 5-252, 6-402, 7-454, 8-477, 9-477

BOWLING: Betts 27-7-86-1, Harmison 22.3-3-91-3, Wood 22-2-87-1; Phillips 26-3-97-2, Foster 20-2-75-2, Gough 7.2-0-39-1

Bonus points: Kent 8 Durham 4

Umpires: D J Constant and J F Steele

Leicestershire v Hampshire

LEICESTER (second day of four). Leicestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 239 runs behind Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White c Nixon b Wells	14
J S Laney c Williamson b Mullally	8
*R A Smith c Simmons b Mullally	40
M Keech c Simmons b Dakin	4
†A N Aymes b Wells	133
A D Mascarenhas c Nixon b Williamson	46
K D James c Brimson b Mullally	30
S D Udal c Nixon b Mullally	44
N A M McLean c Smith b Wells	6
P J Hartley c Nixon b Mullally	21
C A Connor not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 9, w 6, nb 6)	25
Total	361

Score at 120 overs: 303-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-52, 3-65, 4-85, 5-199, 6-259, 7-324, 8-334, 9-340

BOWLING: Mullally 36.5-15-72-5, Simmons 7-0-22-0, Dakin 14-4-58-1, Wells 16.8-3-44-3, Mason 20.2-5-67-0; Brimson 22.4-9-36-0; Williamson 20-4-59-1

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c Keech b McLean	15
I J Sutcliffe lbw b McLean	17
B F Smith b McLean	40
A Habib not out	27
*P V Simmons b McLean	1
J M Dakin b McLean	0
†P A Nixon not out	0
Extras (b 9, lb 3, w 4, nb 6)	32
Total (5 wkts, 34.2 overs)	122

D Williamson, T J Mason, A D Mullally and M T Brimson to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-55, 3-104, 4-112, 5-122

BOWLING: McLean 14.2-3-45-5, Hartley 5-1-20-0, Connor 8-2-24-0, James 7-0-21-0

Bonus points: Leicestershire 2 Hampshire 5

Umpires: H D Bird and J H Harris

Middlesex v Worcestershire

UXBRIDGE (second day of four): Middlesex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 473 runs behind Worcestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

W P C Weston b Hewitt	21
V S Solanki b Hewitt	78
G A Hick c Weekes b Blanchett	166
G R Haynes lbw b Tufnell	0
*T M Moody lbw b Johnson	132
D A Leatherdale b Shah	137
†S J Rhodes not out	67
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 2, nb 18)	36
Total (6 wkts dec)	627

Score at 120 overs: 470-5

S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth, P J Newport and A Sheriyar did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-168, 3-171, 4-393, 5-436, 6-627

BOWLING: Hewitt 27-5-105-2; Johnson 28-7-105-1, Blanchett 28-1-125-1, Kettleborough 4-0-16-0, Tufnell 40-4-136-1, Weekes 25-0-86-0; Shah 8.5-0-46-1

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

R A Kettleborough lbw b Newport	5
J L Langer not out	69
*M R Ramprakash not out	65
Extras (b 2, lb 9, nb 4)	15
Total (1 wkt, 44 overs)	154

O A Shah, M W Gatting, P N Weekes, †D C Nash, R L Johnson, J P Hewitt, I N Blanchett and P C R Tufnell to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-28

BOWLING: Newport 12-5-26-1; Sheriyar 10-4-26-0; Lampitt 6-0-34-0; Illingworth 10-0-30-0, Hick 5-0-20-0; Solanki 1-0-7-0.

Bonus points: Middlesex 2 Worcestershire 4

Umpires: M J Harris and T E Jesty

Northamptonshire v Glamorgan

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Glamorgan have a first innings lead of 391 runs over Northamptonshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 172 (D Ripley 53, K M Curran 54)

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c Ripley b G P Swann	227
A W Evans b Malcolm	10
A Dale b Malcolm	45
M J Powell c G P Swann b Sales	106
*P A Cottey c Curran b Taylor	113
G P Butcher c Ripley b Rose	1
†A D Shaw c A J Swann b Malcolm	0
Wagar Younis c Taylor b Rose	2
S D Thomas b Taylor	17
D A Cosker c Ripley b Taylor	3
S L Watkin not out	1
Extras (b 6, lb 16, w 2, nb 14)	38
Total	563

Score at 120 overs: 541-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-189, 3-355, 4-447, 5-454, 6-469, 7-478, 8-524, 9-544

BOWLING: Malcolm 28-3-144-3, Rose 28-3-130-2; Taylor 25.5-1-105-3, Curran 5-3-24-0, G P Swann 24-3-98-1, Bailey 1-1-0-0; Sales 9-2-28-1, A J Swann 3-0-12-0

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 3 Glamorgan 8

Umpires: N G Cowley and B Leadbeater

Somerset v Surrey

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 194 runs ahead of Surrey

SOMERSET: First Innings 176 (M P Bicknell 4 for 14)

Second Innings

*P D Bowler lbw b Benjamin	9
P C L Holloway not out	110
M E Trescothick lbw b Benjamin	4
M N Lathwell c Batty b Benjamin	0
K A Parsons lbw b Tudor	28
†R J Turner not out	74
Extras (b 12, lb 3, w 7, nb 12)	34
Total (4 wkts)	259

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-21, 3-27, 4-72

BOWLING: Bicknell 19-5-61-0, Benjamin 16-5-44-3, Tudor 13-4-47-1, Butcher 8-3-20-0, Hollioake 10-2-40-0, Salisbury 12-2-36-0, Ratcliffe 2-1-4-0, Knott 1-0-2-0

SURREY: First Innings

*M A Butcher b Bulbeck	28
J D Ratcliffe c Bulbeck b Rose	0
I J Ward b Trescothick	14
N Shahid lbw b Trescothick	6
B C Hollioake lbw b Rose	37
J A Knott c Turner b Bulbeck	12
†J N Batty lbw b Rose	32
A J Tudor c Lathwell b Caddick	1
I D K Salisbury c Lathwell b Caddick	51
M P Bicknell b Bulbeck	6
J E Benjamin not out	18
Extras (lb 9, nb 20)	29
Total (84.4 overs)	241

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-44, 3-52, 4-62, 5-96, 6-124, 7-127, 8-177, 9-212

BOWLING: Caddick 28.4-8-73-2, Rose 25-11-51-3, Trescothick 12-2-34-2, Van Troost 8-1-22-0, Bulbeck 11-0-52-3

Bonus points: Somerset 4 Surrey 5

Umpires: V A Holder and J W Holder



Cottey: hundred at Taunton

Sussex v Derbyshire

HORSHAM (second day of four): Derbyshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 41 runs ahead of Sussex

SUSSEX: First Innings

M T E Peirce c Krikken b DeFreitas	18
W G Khan c Slater b Dean	70
M Newell not out	135
*M G Bevan lbw b Dean	5
J R Carpenter lbw b DeFreitas	1
K Newell c Rollins b Cork	43
TS Humphries b Cork	0
P W Jarvis lbw b DeFreitas	22
A A Khan lbw b Cork	23
J D Lewry c Krikken b Cork	0
R J Kirtley run out	17
Extras (b 1, lb 10, w 2, nb 8)	21
Total (112.1 overs)	325

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-143, 3-157, 4-158, 5-198, 6-198, 7-228, 8-272, 9-280.

BOWLING: Cork 28-9-77-4, DeFreitas 23-1-74-3; Dean 26.1-8-60-2, Lacey 12-3-33-0; Cassar 19-6-35-0, Blackwell 4-2-5-0

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

M J Slater b Lewry	0
A S Rollins c A A Khan b Jarvis	58
T A Tweats c Carpenter b Lewry	17
K J Barnett c M Newell b Lewry	162
M E Cassar c A A Khan b Lewry	121
K J Dean not out	3
†K M Krikken not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 8, nb 2)	11
Total (5 wkts, 107 overs)	368

*†D G Cork, P A J DeFreitas, S J Lacey and I D Blackwell to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-40, 3-106, 4-360, 5-365

BOWLING: Lewry 20-7-41-4; Kirtley 19-3-93-0, A A Khan 30-8-75-0; Jarvis 22-4-76-1; Bevan 8-0-39-0, K Newell 7-2-20-0, Peirce 1-0-13-0

Bonus points: Sussex 5 Derbyshire 8

Umpires: N T Plews and A Clarkson.

Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 71 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 130 (M J Powell 70 not out; M N Bowen 4 for 22)

Second Innings

M J Powell not out	92
†T Frost c Johnson b Dowman	40
D L Hemp c Johnson b Bowen	4
*B C Lara not out	54
Extras (b 4, lb 3, w 2)	9
Total (2 wkts)	199

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-80

BOWLING: Franks 10-1-33-0, Oram 10-5-11-0; Bowen 13-4-28-1, Dowman 8-3-33-1, Tolley 4-0-30-0, Strang 3-1-11-0

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Dowman c Brown b Giddins	44
R T Robinson b Brown	11
U Afzaal c Welch b Brown	0
*P Johnson c Frost b Sheikh	45
N A Gie c Lara b Sheikh	1
C M Tolley c Frost b Giddins	12
P J Franks lbw b Brown	33
†W M Noon retired hurt	16
P A Strang not out	18
M N Bowen b Giddins	18
A R Oram b Giddins	0
Extras (b 2, lb 4, nb 14)	20
Total (78.4 overs)	218

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-32, 3-108, 4-108, 5-118, 6-130, 7-171, 8-216, 9-218

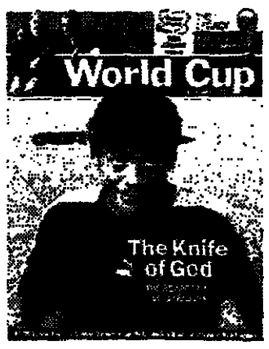
BOWLING: Giddins 22.4-9-47-4; Brown 23-6-77-3; Welch 20-3-63-0; Sheikh 10-2-18-2, Edmond 3-1-7-0

Bonus points: Warwickshire 4 Nottinghamshire 5

Umpires: G I Burgess and A A Jones.

30p THE TIMES

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Grand prix administrators aim to bring excitement back to sport



Reflected glory: the visor on a fireman's helmet mirrors Schumacher's Ferrari during practice for the Monaco Grand Prix tomorrow. Photograph: Oliver Multhaup

Race on to find a different formula

DAVID COULTHARD will drive past his favourite restaurant today, before he gets a fleeting glimpse of his local supermarket. Usually, the trip around his adopted home is more leisurely than the blazing speeds up to 160mph that he will reach during the Monaco Grand Prix tomorrow.

Coulthard is one of many Formula One drivers who have settled in the world's most glamorous tax haven, a place packed with the rich and famous.

When he queues at the supermarket, he is likely to find Giancarlo Fisichella, Jacques Villeneuve, Mika Hakkinen, Ralf Schumacher or Johnny Herbert behind him.

Things are likely to be little different in the race tomorrow, for the one certainty of the Monaco Grand Prix is that overtaking is an extremely rare event.

Overtaking has become almost non-existent in Formula One at any circuit, let alone the streets of Monaco, to the concern of the sport's rulers, who made changes to the rules this season in an attempt make motor racing "more interesting".

The decision to introduce narrower bodywork and grooved tyres, with the intention of slowing down cars and giving drivers the chance to overtake, has backfired so spectacularly that the FIA, Formula One's governing body, has ordered an inquiry.

The charge that Formula One is boring is the most urgent criticism the sport has to answer. The danger is that the legislators might simply make things even worse.

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MONTE CARLO

Such fundamental changes to the design of the cars fell into the laps of the big-budget teams, particularly McLaren, because they had the money to manufacture and test the new models thoroughly while smaller teams were struggling to get their cars ready for the first race.

Adrian Newey, McLaren's technical director, believes that the rest of the field will catch up, but it will probably take as long as two years.

That could be too long if armchair spectators, who feed the finances of Formula One by soaking up the vast advertising and sponsorship messages on the cars and circuits, get bored watching fortnightly processions and switch off in their millions.

Damon Hill underlined the problem when he said: "Once you have seen the first five or six laps, you know the order the cars will finish in and that is how it is going to be for the rest of the race. I got interested in grands prix in the mid-1980s and there would be races when somebody would be 30 seconds behind with 20 laps to go and set off on a charge to the front, taking a couple of seconds a lap out of the leader, which made an exciting climax.

"We need that sort of action back in Formula One, otherwise we risk losing the spectacle and the excitement of racing."

A Formula One car might be motoring's technological equivalent of a space rocket but it is not a fighting machine. Each innovation has made it more difficult to overtake: narrower cars have less downforce, which means less cornering grip and they punch less of a hole in the air, so a chasing car cannot hide in the slipstream to gain speed and catapult into the lead; carbon fibre brakes are too efficient, preventing drivers from outbraking their rivals at crucial moments and circuits are often too narrow and twisting.

The sheer impossibility of completing a clean overtaking manoeuvre has led to some frayed tempers and unnecessary collisions this season. Think of Eddie Irvine and Fisichella remonstrating with each other at the last grand prix in Spain and Coulthard and Michael Schumacher coming together in Brazil.

Schumacher said such accidents are inevitable: "It is just so frustrating when you are three or four seconds a lap quicker than a car in front, but you cannot get past. You have to make a pit stop sometimes just to get out on the circuit ahead."

Formula One's dilemma is how to change the sport without forcing teams to invest more millions in more redesigns.

Alain Prost has told the FIA's technical panel carrying out the inquiry that one simple answer would be to abandon fuel stops.

"The cars are always light and on fresh tyres," he said, "but running with 200 litres of fuel and then trying to conserve tyres and brakes throughout the race is a much more difficult thing for the driver. That was when good drivers, who had judged the race well, could change things and mount an attack at the end of the race."

Hill agreed, adding: "The cars are always at the optimum, always running flat out, so there is no room for judgment or strategy as there would be if we had to run with a full load of fuel for the race."

The argument that Formula One's unique position at the pinnacle of motor sport, which meant it did not need constant overtaking, is collapsing under the weight of criticism, particularly at a time when television viewers can watch exciting IndyCar or touring car racing, Newey said: "People should not underestimate the public's understanding of the complexity of Formula One and all its different strategies."

Schumacher also shrugged and rightly said: "It has always been difficult to overtake in Formula One but more people watch it every year so it can't be that bad."

However, the fact that the FIA has mounted an investigation is telling. Max Mosley, the FIA president, believes the sport urgently needs an injection of excitement while Prost, four times the world champion, who had some epic duels during his career, is adamant that there must be change.

"We must do something to improve the show," he said, "because there are no surprises in Formula One any more and we desperately need them."

DETAILS FROM MONTE CARLO

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS

(after five rounds)

DRIVERS: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 36pts; 2, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 29; 3, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 24; 4, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 11; 5, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 9; 6, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) 8; 7, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 6; 8, J Alesi (Fr, Sauber) 3; 9, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 2; 10 equal, J Herbert (GB, Sauber) and G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 1.

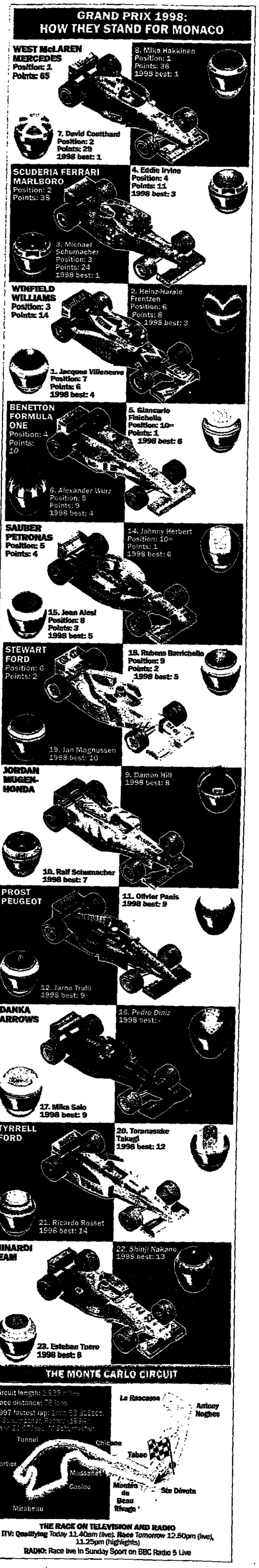
CONSTRUCTORS: 1, McLaren 65pts; 2, Ferrari 34; 3, Williams 14; 4, Benetton 11; 5, Sauber 4; 6, Stewart 2.

THURSDAY'S PRACTICE TIMES

1, Hakkinen 1min 21.937sec; 2, Fisichella 1:22.205; 3, Coulthard 1:22.757; 4, Frentzen 1:23.656; 5, M Schumacher 1:23.685; 6, Irvine 1:23.765; 7, Herbert 1:23.914; 8, Wurz 1:23.948; 9, Villeneuve 1:24.081; 10, J Trulli (It, Prost) 1:24.191; 11, P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 1:24.735; 12, Alesi 1.24.901; 13, O Panis (Fr, Prost) 1:25.119; 14, M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 1:25.400; 15, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart) 1:25.636; 16, Barrichello 1.25.863; 17, D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1:25.947; 18, R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell) 1:26.625; 19, T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:26.761; 20, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1:27.150; 21, E Tuero (Arg, Minardi) 1:27.844; 22, S Nakano (Japan, Minardi) 1:28.652.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME

Tomorrow: Monaco (Monte Carlo).
June 7: Canadian (Montreal).
July 12: British (Silverstone).
July 26: Austrian (Zeltweg).
August 2: German (Hockenheim).
August 16: Hungarian (Budapest).
August 30: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps).
September 13: Italian (Monza).
September 27: Luxembourg (Nurburgring).
October 11: Portuguese (Estoril).
November 1: Japanese (Suzuka).



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27 MAY	LAWTEX PROMOTIONAL UMBRELLAS LTD	SADDLEWORTH	16
27 MAY	SAFETYNET PLC	HARLEYFORD	36
28 MAY	AFPAA EDS	BOTLEY PARK	48
28 MAY	DURHAM COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT CO LTD	BRANCEPETH CASTLE	28
28 MAY	F C FOREMAN & PARTNERS	MANNINGS HEATH	40
28 MAY	MEESPIERSON SECURITIES (UK) LTD	MILLRIDE	30
29 MAY	BRITISH STEEL	WHITBY	36
29 MAY	CAPTIAL ASSET FINANCE LIMITED	FRILFORD HEATH	26
29 MAY	CLARKS INTERNATIONAL	OKE MANOR	36
29 MAY	MMC EXPRESS MAIL	CASTLE ROYLE	50
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HOCKEY: TROPHY PLACE IN JEOPARDY AS AMERICANS CELEBRATE

England need champion show

THERE is much at stake for England, who meet Pakistan today in a World Cup pool B match, after the disappointing 3-1 defeat by Spain on Thursday night. Another defeat will destroy their hopes and almost certainly consign them to the play-offs for fifth to eighth places.

If they finish anywhere below sixth position, they will be shut out of the next two Champions' Trophy tournaments in Pakistan at the end of this year and in Brisbane next year. Of more importance, the preparation by Great Britain for the 2000 Olympic Games at Sydney will be seriously affected.

The England team, however, has enough character and determination to avoid these pitfalls and are preparing themselves for a rousing contest with Pakistan, who, without doubt, looked powerful when they trounced Malaysia 7-2. There are weak spots in their defence, though, and they conceded 12 short corners in that game. Giles, the short-corner specialist, who had a blank day against the Spaniards, may come into his own against Pakistan but Barry Dancer, the England coach, has advised against relying too much on him.

In his reappraisal of the encounter with Spain, Dancer said: "It was a match we thought we could have won, but many things went wrong. Our deep defence let us down inside the circle and, worse still, we had no control in midfield." He thought Sharpe, at outside right, played his best game for England and praised Mason, the goalkeeper, for having made six outstanding saves.

The Pakistan management has advised its team against complacency, recalling the fate of the Pakistan under-21 team in the junior World Cup at Milton Keynes last September when England, after losing to Argentina, came back with a vengeance the next day to defeat Pakistan convincingly. The result deprived Pakistan of a place in the semi-finals and England themselves went on to reach the last four.

England's last World Cup match against Pakistan was in Sydney four years ago, when England won 2-0 but failed to reach the semi-finals. The fact that they have not lost a World Cup match to Pakistan so far gives them a psychological advantage.

Germany, who defeated India 4-1 on Thursday, look the strongest team in pool A, with more sharpness than Holland, their traditional rivals, who struggled to defeat Canada 3-1. Lomans, the Dutch expert at set-pieces, missed a penalty stroke after Canada had equalised at 1-1, but late goals for Holland by Veen and Brinkman settled the issue.

Scotland lose their composure

Scotland	1
United States	2

FROM CATHY HARRIS IN UTRECHT

SCOTLAND were putting on a brave face after losing their second successive match, but they know they face an uphill battle to salvage something in the women's World Cup after failing to take their chances against the United States.

Surprise bronze medal-winners in Dublin four years ago, the Americans have rebuilt their squad and have suffered several heavy defeats recently. Scotland, boosted by the return from an ankle injury of Sue Fraser, their Olympian and experienced defender, had every reason to expect victory.

But they fell behind after two minutes. Kate Barber deflecting in a penalty-corner strike from Jill Reeve, and it took another 20 minutes for Scotland to get back into the match. Reeve's departure in the 23rd minute with a serious knee injury unsettled her young team-mates, but Scotland found Peggy Storrar, the US goalkeeper, in great form and failed to secure an equaliser.

Instead, they went two down six minutes after the restart, Tracey Fuchs picking her spot after collecting a pass from Kris Filiat. Scotland continued to pile on the pressure, however, and earned a penalty stroke after an infringement by Storrar. Sue MacDonald converted it to give her side hope.

More scoring opportunities followed but, with Rhona Simpson and Pauline Robertson losing their composure at crucial moments in the circle, the US hung on for three precious points.

England finally received some good news on the injury front when X-rays revealed that Karen Brown's left hand had been only badly bruised, and not broken as feared, in the 3-2 defeat by Holland on Thursday. But she remains doubtful for the match today against Argentina, the joint-group leaders.

England have not beaten the 1994 silver medal-winners in four games since the World Cup in Sydney in 1990, and, if Brown is ruled out, they will need to stand firm at the back to keep the lively Argentina forwards at bay.

SCOTLAND: T Robb (Glasgow Western), S Fraser (Grove), A Denholm (Glasgow Western), V Neil (Edinburgh Ladies), J Jack (Edinburgh Ladies), R Wallace (Glasgow Western), D Ramsden (Edinburgh Ladies), P Robertson (Grove, captain), S Gilmour (HGC), S MacDonald (Slough), R Simpson (Edinburgh Ladies) Substitutes: F Pearson (Edinburgh Ladies), A Grant (Edinburgh Ladies), L Burton (Edinburgh Ladies), C Corcoran (Edinburgh Ladies).

UNITED STATES: P Storrar, K Holmes, J Reeve, K Kauffman, C Debow, K James, T Fuchs (captain), A Lucas, K Gleason, K Barber, K Filiat. Substitutes: C Schwarz, L Mastropietro

Umpires: N Kato (Japan) and L Crespo (Argentina)

SAILING

Finishing positions still up for grabs in final scramble

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE mad dash to Southampton got under way outside La Rochelle yesterday when the last leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race began amid chaotic scenes, with hundreds of French spectator boats accompanying the nine racing yachts on their way back out into the Bay of Biscay.

With ten minutes to go before the start, the race organisers announced that a shorter, 430-mile course to the finish line off Ocean Village had been chosen. This course misses out a rounding of the Wolf Rock. Instead, the fleet will proceed directly to Poole Fairway Buoy, via Ushant, and from there into the Solent on Sunday morning.

The start took place in a light northeasterly that is expected to dominate for much of the leg. The quickest away were *Toshiba*, on which Dennis Conner is again co-skippering with Paul Standbridge, and *Innovation Kvaerner*, skippered by Knut Frostad, which is lying in seventh position overall, just eight points behind Lawrie Smith's *Silk Cut*.

By the second of two turning marks before the fleet headed out to sea, it was John Kostecki, on *Chessie Racing*, who was the first to peel his spinnaker, followed by *Toshiba*, 31 seconds astern, and then *Silk Cut*, with Grant Dalton's *Merit Cup* right in her wake. Then it was *Kvaerner*, whose crew impressed those watching by gybing their masthead spinnaker perfectly at the buoy.

Three hours into the race, the all-women crew on *EF Education* were narrowly ahead with *Kvaerner*, *Chessie* and *EF Language*, the already-confirmed race winner, skippered by Paul Cayard, in very close ranking order behind her. *Silk Cut* was sixth, one place behind *Merit*. *Swedish Match*, skippered by Gunnar Krantz, which is fighting to hold on to second place overall, was last, but only two miles off the lead.

The leg, the shortest in Whitbread history, will sort out the final overall placings from second to sixth. Cayard, however, is going all out for one more taste of glory. He led the fleet out through the Needles Channel on September 21 and would dearly love a repeat tomorrow.

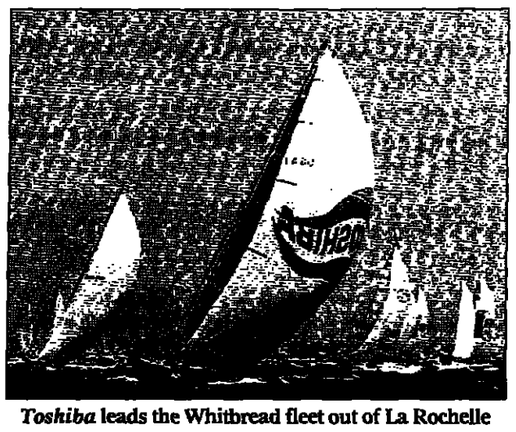
Yesterday he predicted a very difficult finale in light airs. "The forecast is for a northeasterly 12-18 knots ... going to the north and dropping in velocity. The big decision of the race could well be when to tack on to port in the English Channel as the wind shifts and the current changes," he said.

"Sunday morning looks real light in the western Solent and, with an outgoing current, anchoring 20 miles from the finish is a real possibility. That would leave the fleet virtually all lined up and what a stress for those trying to protect their position. *Swedish Match* and *Merit*. I am very happy not to have the whole race still on the line," Cayard said.

Krantz is trying to stave off a late charge from Dalton or Kostecki while both of those two have got to watch Smith and Frostad. For Smith, this leg is a last chance to pull *Silk Cut* up to a respectable finish and he is desperate to do well.

Ado Stead, one of Smith's crew, said this last sprint had become the most important leg of the whole race. "I am sure that each crew member will feel under the same pressure as an Olympic athlete on the last day of competition — striving for the best performance ever to win a coveted medal," he said.

"The points are so close and the racing will be needle. We have *Swedish Match* still there in second, *Merit* is there, 33 points ahead of us, then *Chessie* with Derek Clark on as guest tactician and local knowledge. Then we've got Knut's lads on *Kvaerner*, just one place behind us on the water. The final results, I am sure, won't be decided until the whole fleet are across the line in Southampton."



Toshiba leads the Whitbread fleet out of La Rochelle



All the elegance of dressage is on show as a competitor rides across Windsor Great Park to the competition arena. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

Nicholson moves into contention

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

ANDREW NICHOLSON, of New Zealand, who will set out first over the cross-country course today, moved into third place on Deborah Burrell's King Leo at the Windsor International Horse Trials yesterday — behind Terry Boon and Richard Waygood, the overnight leaders on Thursday — after producing the best test of the day in the Chubb Insurance section.

Nicholson, who intends to ride round the cross-country course with his "whip pinned to my side and my mouth bound with sticking plaster" after his reprimand at Badminton for "unsportsmanlike behaviour", was delighted with King Leo's test. The 8-year-old, on which he was eighth at Blair last year, was supple and obedient throughout, earning high marks from all three judges. Although drawn first of the 62 in the section, Nicholson was given special dispensation to do his dressage yesterday — rather than Thursday — in order to give Burrell's husband time to return from a business trip to the United States.

Nicholson was not averse to the idea. "I never mind going first across country, but it's often frustrating being first into the dressage arena because the marks always seem more lenient on the second day," he said.

Steven James, a pupil of Boon's, would not disagree. He was pleasantly surprised with his mark of 48.6, the second-best of the day, which moved him into fifth place overnight. "I thought it would be early fifties." James, from Hartlepool but now based with Boon in Norfolk, said. He took over the ride on the 10-year-old when Kate Roncoroni, who rode the horse at Burgie last year, moved into point-to-pointing.

Unlike Boon, who was disappointed at not finding more "questions" on the cross country, James feels there is plenty to jump today. In common with many of the riders, he is paying special attention to fence 14, The Brooms and Buckets, one of four new fences on the course and one that puts a premium on accurate riding.

Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, also has no quibbles with the course, barring the firm ground that the organisers are doing their best to alleviate. "It's very fair and great for this level, because it's encouraging," he said.

Nicholson, lying fifteenth on his second ride, Valhalla IV, is also impressed with fence 14, where he may decide to take the longer route. Otherwise, he regards the course as fair and similar to last year, his only reservation being the "very rough" going.

Bella Tschaikowsky, from Tring, in Hertfordshire, has moved into second place in the Masterpiece section behind Polly Clark and The Tonka Toy, the overnight leader on Thursday, after a delightful test on Brownhill Handsome Harry. She has had the 12-year-old only six weeks and competed at two events with him. At the first, Tidworth, she crashed three fences from home when she was unable to stop. Despite this inauspicious start, Tschaikowsky, a pupil of Gill Watson, "can't wait" to set out on the cross country.

Jonathan Warr, the course designer, has had the 3½-mile course rolled to even out the rough patches and four men have spent the past five days filling in any ruts or small holes.

The steeplechase course and selected areas of the cross country have been extensively watered to try to give the horses the best possible footing. Jane Holderness-Roddam, the technical delegate who is able to make changes on the course if necessary, had no need to use her powers. "It's spot on," she said yesterday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Zulle in the pink after first stage victory

CYCLING: Alex Zülle, of Switzerland, the race favourite, won the sixth stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday to regain the pink jersey worn by the overall race leader. Zülle broke away as the stage neared its conclusion and crossed the finish line in glorious isolation. Michele Bartoli, of Italy, the previous race leader, finished second, 24sec behind. It was Zülle's first stage victory after his success in the time-trial prologue in Nice last Saturday.

"I only sought victory in the stage. I also captured the pink jersey, almost inadvertently," Zülle said. "Bartoli proved a tough opponent. He's in top form and has always finished in the top positions in every stage so far."

Korda's record intact

TENNIS: Petr Korda, the Australian Open champion, led the Czech Republic into the final of the World Team Cup in Düsseldorf yesterday when he maintained his 100 per cent record in the competition this year by beating Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Korda's team-mate, Slava Dosedel, beat Todd Woodbridge in straight sets to give the Czechs a winning 2-0 lead. Their opponents will be Sweden, who took a 2-0 lead over the United States with wins by Jonas Bjorkman and Magnus Norman.

Shaw drops out

RUGBY UNION: Simon Shaw, the Wasps lock, has become the latest player to withdraw from the England party to tour the southern hemisphere that leaves later this month. Shaw, who had to pull out on medical grounds, has been replaced by Dave Sims, the uncapped Gloucester lock. This brings the number of uncapped players in the England party to 19. Shaw's season has been dogged by injury and his appearances for club and country have been minimal after returning from South Africa with the British Isles last summer.

Makinen takes control

MOTOR RALLYING: Tommi Makinen, the world champion from Finland, is on course to win his third successive Rally of Argentina after taking a 12.4sec lead over Didier Auriol, of France, on the second day of the event. Makinen, in a Mitsubishi, had begun the day more than a second behind Colin McRae, but when the Scot faltered Makinen seized his chance. The Finn finished no worse than third on any of the eight stages.

Powell ruled out

FOOTBALL: England will be without Hope Powell, the midfield player, for their important group three women's World Cup qualifying match against Holland today at Waalwijk, Holland. Powell sustained a hamstring injury during their 2-1 defeat of Norway, the World Cup holders, in a qualifying match earlier this month. England beat Holland 1-0 last October and are confident of repeating the result, which would give them an outside chance of winning a play-off place.

Allenby leads way

MODERN PENTATHLON: Great Britain, led by Kate Allenby, finished seventh with a total of 4,637 points in the team relay at the European championships in Warsaw. The event was won by Belarus. The team of Allenby, Julia Allen and Georgina Harland, who have now qualified for the world championships in Mexico City in August, are also competing in the individual European championship, which finishes tomorrow.

RUGBY LEAGUE: FIVE RHINOS BIDDING FOR A HAPPY HOMECOMING AT FORMER STAMPING GROUND

Powell hopes to ground Eagles

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FIVE former Sheffield Eagles players, including Daryl Powell, on his full debut, are seeking a happy homecoming at Don Valley Stadium today as Leeds Rhinos look to extend their unbeaten run at the top of the JJB Super League to seven matches.

Powell, the former Great Britain utility player, starts at loose forward in a pack that contains Anthony Farrell and Dean Lawford, who followed Gary Hetherington, the former Sheffield coach and chairman, to Headingley in December 1996, along with Ryan Sheridan, who has established himself as first-choice scrum-half this season.

Andy Hay joined the Sheffield exodus to Leeds in May last year and the rangy forward enjoyed his best moment when he stepped off the bench last Friday to score the decisive try in an epic 16-8 defeat of Wigan Warriors.

In the absence of Marc Glanville, who was concussed against Wigan, Powell begins his first full game since he arrived from Keighley Cougars last August. He was one of several players picked up from the troubled Cougars on a sale-or-return basis. Initially, he was retained for his coaching abilities but has worked his way into the side on the basis of his impact as a substitute in all six Super League victories.

It is a significant afternoon for Powell, 32, in more ways than one. Redhill, his amateur club in Castleford, where Hetherington discovered him in 1984, meet the Hull side, Ideal ABI, in the 25th BNFL National Cup final at Post Office Road, Featherstone.

After he became Sheffield's first signing, he starred during 11 seasons, scoring 114 tries in 312 appearances. No one, apart from Hetherington perhaps, extracted greater pleasure in Sheffield's victory in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup three weeks ago, which built on more than a decade's hard graft by both of them.

The last of Powell's 33 international appearances was in 1996, in which he figured in some outstanding Great Britain sides. He ranks the present Leeds team as the best club outfit he has been involved with, yet Sheffield are hardly respecters of reputation.

"I think they have got three quality props in Paul Broadbent, Steve Molloy and Dale Laughton, but our front row is going really well with Jamie Mathiou coming off the bench," Powell said. "It is going to be a tough one."

Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, confessed his surprise when Sheffield beat Wigan in the final and is specifically looking to the former Eagles quintet to raise their game. "Sheffield hounded away at Wigan and we'd be wrong to think they won't do the same to us. I understand that Leeds have found Sheffield something of a bogy side in recent years and John Kear [the Sheffield coach] is just the sort of guy to look to exploit that," he said.



Powell: full debut

Four former Leeds players, Molloy, Darren Turner, and Sheffield's alternative half-back pairing of Marcus Vassilakopoulos and Gareth Stephens, who combined well in the victory away to Salford Reds last Sunday, are also hardly lacking in incentive.

A week of internal strife at St Helens, with Paul Newlove reportedly unsettled, Karle Hammond asking to be put on the transfer list and feathers being ruffled by the reappointment of Eric Hughes as director of operations, would not appear to be ideal preparation for the match tomorrow away to fourth-paced Halifax Blue Sox, who head them on points difference.

However, Halifax turned the chaos theory on its head by winning away to Bradford Bulls after John Pendlebury had resigned and returned as coach in a 24-hour period.

Josh White, the Salford scrum half, passed a fitness test for the trip tomorrow to London Broncos, the Australian's former club, and Paul Highton makes his debut in the second row.

Carroll strikes late for Queensland

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TONIE CARROLL, the Queensland replacement forward, scored a last-minute try to complete a dramatic 24-23 win over New South Wales yesterday in the first Australian rugby league State of Origin match.

Carroll ran in to score near the posts with just 24 seconds remaining, then watched as Darren Lockyer, who kicked four goals from four attempts on the night, landed the winning conversion after the siren had sounded to give Queensland a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series.

New South Wales scored five tries to four and looked to have made the match safe when Steve Menzies crossed in the left corner with six minutes remaining. They would have won had Andrew Johns, the scrum half, not had an off day with the boot, landing just one goal from five attempts.

Queensland opened the scoring in the eighth minute with a Kevin Walters try and were unlucky not to have scored another when Steve Renouf touched down four minutes later, only to have the try disallowed for an off-the-ball infringement.

New South Wales led 13-6 at the interval scoring three tries to their opponents one, but Queensland stormed back into the lead with two tries early in the second half. First, Steven Price pounced on a ball that Adam MacDougall spilt from a Langer grubber kick and five minutes later, Langer, the Queensland captain, put them 18-13 in front when he scored a similar try after Daley had fumbled.

New South Wales regained the lead shortly afterwards when Brad Fittler scored in the right-hand corner and Johns converted. They then looked to have sealed the win when Menzies crossed in the 74th minute.

But Queensland, who also scored a last-minute try to win at the Sydney Football Stadium in 1994, cleared the ball from their own line in their final set of six tackles, before Carroll ran in for the winning try.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

HONG KONG, Thomas Cup: Semi-finals: Malaysia 3 Denmark 2, Indonesia 3 China 2

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 6 Tampa Bay 1, Detroit 6 Minnesota 3 (11 inns); New York Yankees 3 Baltimore 1, Cleveland 6 Kansas City 2, Texas 9 Seattle 8, Anaheim 12 Oakland 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Arizona 6 Florida 4, San Francisco 8 Milwaukee 1, Houston 6 Montreal 0, Los Angeles 7 Chicago Cubs 3, Philadelphia 4 St Louis 3, Pittsburgh 3 San Diego 2, Atlanta 2 Colorado 0, New York Mets 6 Cincinnati 1

BOXING

MINSK: European amateur championship: Quarter-finals. 51kg: R Guzashvili (Geo) bt B Inom (Fr) 5-2. V Sotomayo (Ukr) bt A Mohmed (Tur) 5-4. V Darbinian (Arm) bt M Abid (Macedonia) 5-2. I Rasipov (Russ) bt I Samoilenko (Macedonia) 4-3. 57kg: S Sanchat (Russ) bt V Bichajuns (Lith) 7-4. R Paliani (Tur) bt F Mousso (Ger) 8-5. Y Nagu (Hun) bt A Senadon (Ith) 6-0. A Simonyan (Arm) bt M Vlashov (Bul) 6-5. 63.5kg: S Bykovsky (Bela) bt S Cuplov (Ukr) 9-8. N Suloiman Oglu (Tur) bt I Belsio (Pol) 8-2. D Poryfychenkov (Russ) bt K Mamedaev (Scot) 10-0. D Simon (Rom) bt L Konecny (Cz) 9-1. 67kg: D Sailov (Russ) bt H Bayam (Fr) 7-3. M Simeon (Rom) bt C Bladt (Den) 12-3. S Dzerzyuk (Ukr) bt V Grushchak (Macedonia) 5-0. V Mezga (Bela) bt B Uluso. (Tur) 4-1. 75kg: Z Erdev (Hun) bt A Love (Eng) 9-1. J-P Mendi (Fr) bt F Karagyuliyu (Tur) 4-2. B Magee (Ire) bt G Gaysler (Ger) 6-4. D Strelchenn (Russ) bt R Kraj (Cz) 6-1. 81kg: A Lobzaw (Russ) bt T Bengtson (Ger) 2-0. T Adamek (Pol) bt D Lenkov (Bela) 10-5. G Fry (Eng) br G Mouras (Gr) 4-2. K Rasko (Rom) bt H Tahata (Fr) 3-2. Semi-finals: 48kg: I Stapench (Ukr) bt P Lazzes (Hun) 13-7. S Kazakov (Russ) bt O Kirukhin (Ukr) 7-5. 54kg: S Damichenko (Ukr) bt R Malakhbekov (Russ) 2-0. M Alexandru (Rom) bt R Walstad (Nor) 0-0 (18-7). 60kg: K Gogoladze (Geo) bt A Gevorkyan (Arm) 5-4. K Husto (Ger) bt T Ouzian (Ge) 2-1. 71kg: E Aslan (Tur) bt A Diakonu (Rom) 5-1. F Ester (Fr) bt C Bessey (Eng) tko 4m. 75kg: Erdev bt Mandi 6-2. Magee bt Strelchenn 6-1. 91kg: G Fragomeni (It) bt E Maksimenko (Russ) 4-0. S Dychkov (Bela) bt K Turkson (Swe) 5-1.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three: Abbotsholme School, Derbyshire 213 (E G Wilson 4-43) and 67-2; Essex 272 (B J Hyam 56, G M Roberts 5-73). Hove: Worcestershire 462-9 dec and 45-1; Sussex 319-7 dec (K Greenfield 123, A D Edwards 55 not out). Southampton: Glamorgan 261 and 110-3; Hampshire 391-6 dec (T R Whittaker 192, W S Kendall 137). Bingley: Leicestershire 299 and 138-6; Yorkshire 303-8 dec (G M Fellows 94 not out, J W Middlebrook 68). Trent Bridge: Warwickshire 234; Nottinghamshire 448-8 (C M W Read 114, G F Archey 73, A C Wharf 73, J Clarke 54).

MCC TROPHY (one day): RAF Vine Lane: Surrey 407-8 (J Fry 112, M Patterson 106, G Crawford 53); Middlesex 323-8 (S Patel 71, S Sellwood 50). Surrey won by 84 runs.

TOUR MATCH: Kandy (first day of three): Sri Lanka Board XI 268-7 v New Zealanders.

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA: Fifth stage (Orbetello-Frascati, 206km). 1, M Cipollini (It, Saeco) 4hr 44min 25sec. 2, S Marinello (It, Saeco). 3, S Smetanine (Russ, Vitalicio). 4, F Baldato (It, Riso Scotti). 5, M Bartoli (It, Asics). 6, L Mazzanti (It, Cantina Tollo) all same time. Leading overall positions: 1, Bartoli 23hr 41min 26sec. 2, S Gontchar (Ukr, Cantina Tollo) at 3sec. 3, M Piccoli (It, Brescialat) 11. 4, M Velo (It, Marcatone Uno) 15. 5, A Zülle (Swtz, Festina) same time.

MIDI LIBRE GRAND PRIX: Fourth stage (Lunsac-Nimes 208km). 1, D Nazon (Fr) 4hr 41min 30sec. 2, F Simon (Fr). 3, N Jalabert (Fr). 4, M Manzoni (It). 5, M Milesi (It). 6, A Svakov (Russ) all at same time. Leading overall positions: 1, L Dufaux (Swtz) 14hr 42min 54sec. 2, M Mauri (Sp) at 12sec. 3, C Rinero (Fr) 25; 4, G Maignan (Fr) 46. 5, C Moreau (Fr) 59.

EQUESTRIANISM

CHUBB INSURANCE WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS (after dressage) Chubb Insurance section one: 1, Blue Admiral (T Boon, GB) 37.2. 2, Crackerjack III (R Waygood, GB) 41.0. 3, King Leo (A Nicholson, NZ) 45.6. Masterpiece section one. 1, The Tonka Toy (P Clark, GB) 50.2. 2, Brownhill Handsome Harry (B Tschaikowsky, GB) 50.8; 3, Wessex Lad (N Wellesley, GB) 51.4.



MIDI LIBRE GRAND PRIX: Fourth stage (Lunsac-Nimes 208km). 1, D Nazon (Fr) 4hr 41min 30sec. 2, F Simon (Fr). 3, N Jalabert (Fr). 4, M Manzoni (It). 5, M Milesi (It). 6, A Svakov (Russ) all at same time. Leading overall positions: 1, L Dufaux (Swtz) 14hr 42min 54sec. 2, M Mauri (Sp) at 12sec. 3, C Rinero (Fr) 25; 4, G Maignan (Fr) 46. 5, C Moreau (Fr) 59.

British junior championship: 1, Morning Dazzler (C Clegg-Reading) 48.2. 2, Achdala Count (C Chamberlayne) 48.4. 3, Fernleigh Ambassador (C Balfour) 48.6.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

TOULON UNDER-21 TOURNAMENT: Semi-finals: Argentina 1 China 0, Portugal 0 France 0 (aet; France won 4-1 on pens).

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Brittany XI 1 Cameroon XI 1 (in Rennes).

SPANISH LEAGUE: Play-off, first leg: Villarreal (II) 0 Compostela 0.

GOLF

FORT WORTH, Texas, MasterCard Colonial: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 64, H Frazar (66, P Blackmar, J Funk, D Duval, L Wadkins, 67, J Kelly, S Hoch, R Tway, B Estes, J Carter, R Medalie, B Fabel, D Martin, B Lietzke, J Sluman, R W Eaks. 68, D Frost (SA), S Appleby (Aus), C Parry (Aus), S Kendall, P Stewart, S Flech, J Cook, P Stankowski, M Calcavecchia, G Bonso, J Cink, D Hart, K Perry, T Watson, B Chamblee, C Dennis. Other score: 72, N Faldo (GB).

CORNING, New York, LPGA Corning Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 67, T Green, S Hallock. 68, C Walker, S Lowe (GB). B Burton. 69, H Stacy, S Redmen, A M Palli (Fr), J Geddes, K Albers, V Odergard, H Alfredsson (Swe). 70, J Stephenson (Aus), C Nilsmark (Swe). 71, S Little (SA), J Lebeck (Peru), G Graham (Can), D C Jones (Can), K Marshall (GB). 72, L Walters (Can), N Harvey (Can), S Waugh (Aus), M Lunn (Aus), A Dibos (Peru). 73, Ji Hyun Suh (S Kor), S Strudwick (GB), K Lunn (Aus), A Gotimo (Swe). 74, E Dahlof (Swe), L Bernevruti (It).

NORTH BERWICK: Scottish Women's Amateur Championship: First round: C Dwars (Douglas Park) bt H Monaghan (Honor Warr Univ) 1 hole. C Hargan (Dundee Univ) bt S Wood (Aberdeen Ladies) 5 and 4. P Mackay (Golspie) bt P Williamson (Burnham Beeches) 3 and 2. D Ferguson (The Glen) bt C Malcolm (Prestwick St Cuthbert) 2 and 1. A Walker (Strathaven) bt J Harrison (Cruden Bay) 5 and 4. E Moffat (St Regulus) bt M L Renton (Gifford) 2 and 1. P Silver (Prestonfield) bt J Anderson (Hawick) 1 hole. K Marshall (Balerno) bt A Finlay (Ratho Park) 4 and 3. A Laing (Honor Warr Univ) bt T Stoddart (Cawder) 6 and 4. J Smith (Gullane) bt S McMaster (Dunbar) 1 hole. V Laing (Musselburgh) bt L Johnston (Gullane) 3 and 2. A Rose (Stirling) bt L Morton (Tullietan) 5 and 4. M Thomson (North Berwick) bt L Mackay (Golspie) 2 and 1. C Agnew (Easthaven) bt K Milne (Ladybank) 4 and 3. E Farquharson-Black (Deeside) bt S McEwan (Edinburgh Univ) 6 and 5. L Nicholson (Honor Warr Univ) bt J Jenkins (Ralston) 5 and 3. Second round: Hargan bt Divers 2 and 1. P Mackay bt Ferguson 4 and 3. Moffat bt Walker 2 and 1. Marshall bt Silver 4 and 3. Smith bt A Laing at 20th. V Laing bt Rose 6 and 4. Agnew bt Thomson 3 and 2. Farquharson-Black bt Nicholson 3 and 2. Quarter-finals: Mackay bt Hargan 2 and 1. Moffat bt Marshall 2 and 1. Laing bt Smith 6 and 4. Agnew bt Farquharson-Black 1 hole. Semi-finals: Moffat bt Mackay 3 and 2. Agnew bt Laing 3 and 2.

HOCKEY

UTRECHT: World Cup: Men: Pool A: Holland 3 Canada 1. Pool B: Spain 3 England 1. **Women:** Pool A: Germany 4 South Africa 3, United States 2 Scotland 1, Australia 7 China 1. Pool B: South Korea 5 New Zealand 4.

MOTOR RALLYING

RALLY OF ARGENTINA: First leg: 1, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi Lancer) 1hr 32min 58.7sec. 2, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota Corolla) at 12.4secs. 3, C McRae (GB, Subaru Impreza) 14.3. 4, J Kankkunen (Fin, Ford Escort) 37.9. 5, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota Corolla) 52.3. 6, R Burns (GB, Mitsubishi Carisma) 1min 16.2sec.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First division: Moldgreen 16 Eastmoor 8.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Huddersfield 20 Wigan 38.

STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH: New South Wales 23 Queensland 24.

RUGBY UNION

JERUSALEM: Sevens tournament: Semi-finals: Fiji 38 Australia 12, Western Samoa 26 New Zealand 19. Final: Fiji 24 Western Samoa 19 (aet).

SAILING

BANDIOL, France: 49er world championships: Gold Fleet (after two races): 1, A and I Budgen (GB) 9pts. 2, A Beashel and T Czolowski (Aus) 12. 3, M Larson and K Hall (US) 13. Other British placing: 6, T Robinson and I Walker 27.

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 53 Eastbourne 37, Swindon 52 Wolverhampton 38. **PREMIER LEAGUE CUP:** Sheffield 51 Newcastle 39.

TENNIS

STRASBOURG: WTA tournament: Semi-finals: J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-3, 7-6. I Spirlea (Rom) bt A Fusai (Fr) 7-5, 6-3.

DUSSELDORF: Men's World Team Cup: Red group: Czech Republic 2 Australia 1 (P Korda bt M Philippoussis 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. S Dosedel bt T Woodbridge 6-1, 6-4; D Vacek and C Suk lost to T Woodbridge and M Woodbridge 2-6, 3-6); Sweden 2 United States 0 (J Bjorkman bt M Chang 6-2, 3-6, 7-6; M Norman bt J Courier 6-4, 6-4).

MADRID: Women's Villa de Madrid Open: Semi-finals: D van Roost (Bel) bt B Schett (Austria) 6-2, 6-2. P Schnyder (Swtz) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-4, 7-5.

Bristol seek to stay the course

BY DAVID ...

BRISTOL ... been here ... does not get ... row, both ... they will ... English rug... they are dow... rugby, and ... recent experi... Bristol it would ... the system.

For 110 years B... an honoured n... noon they ... London Scottish ... division play-off ... points lead from ... ability to win ... have all but k...

A club that ... its 22 Allied Dun... games does not ... Bristol's lifeline ... struction of the ... next season. Re... sional sport ... hand, although ... Bristol's survival.

If ever Bristol ... supporters to turn ... today. The... wards as Fullerton ... fit and the ... Worsley at prop will ... against a Scottish XV ... Derrick Lee ... after being sent off ... last weekend. ... back by Iain M...

Bristol must also ... Lewsey, the Brist... dent, who will lea... with England on ... hemisphere tour. The ... Lewsey to be in ... contract and hope... disciplinary hearing ... and depart.

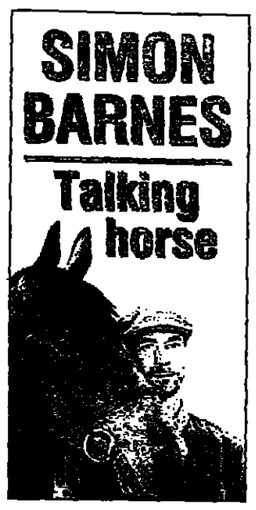
London Irish, who ... from Rotherham brea... on Wednesday after ... tumultous three-point ... should feel happier ...

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

The Derby, sport's ultimate rite of spring, is now only two weeks away

Making sense of the mid-May madness





When Greek Dance hacked up to win the Michael Seely Memorial Stakes, he placed himself among the Derby favourites. Photographs: Hugh Routledge

I once visited a Jain temple in India and was engaged in conversation by a monk, to whom, as a Jain, all life was sacred. Happening to have a coconut about my person, I offered it to him, so that he might make an offering of it to Whomsoever a Jain should. He clove the great nut into pieces, spread it out on a great stone, and, before he had resumed his seat, the offering had been accepted. The coconut was covered beneath a great brown, furry, carpet.

The monk turned to me with a seraphic, perfectly beatific smile. "*So many rats!*" he said, with delight, with reverence. As for me, I could not work out whether to drop to my knees in reverence for Life, or to collapse on the floor in a heap of laughter.

Newmarket brings out much the same emotional crisis. Specifically, Newmarket at seven in the morning. So many horses! What are they doing? What the hell are they *for*? What is the point? Absolutely none whatsoever. As always at Newmarket, I was caught between bursting into tears at the beauty of it all — horsey people tend to emotional liability — and howling with laughter at its absurdity.

Horses here, horses there. Horses walking, horses queueing — all Newmarket horses are, like the British themselves, good at queueing — spooking, cantering, galloping. Stand on Warren Hill and turn in a slow circle: perhaps 500 thoroughbreds in view.

And 500 lads swearing, teasing, bantering, patting, flirting, teasing. Some grim and purposeful, others hilarious, all capable of riding out the Newmarket domino effect — when a horse spooks at the top of Warren Hill, a couple of minutes later you will find the last horse spooking at the bottom.

I hadn't seen as many herbivores together, in such a scene of apparent — apparent? — chaos since I watched the great wildebeest migration in the Serengeti. But there was a point to what the wildebeest were doing: they were finding food, moving in pursuit of the rainclouds and the freshest grass. There is no point whatsoever to all this.

Among the thoroughbreds, some chunkier beasts, the hacks, slower, calmer and capable of carrying at least two stable lads each. There Luca Cumani, on a rather flashy-looking grey; there Henry Cecil on a ridiculous looking coloured horse, chestnut with white blotches. And Michael Stoute on a workmanlike chestnut.

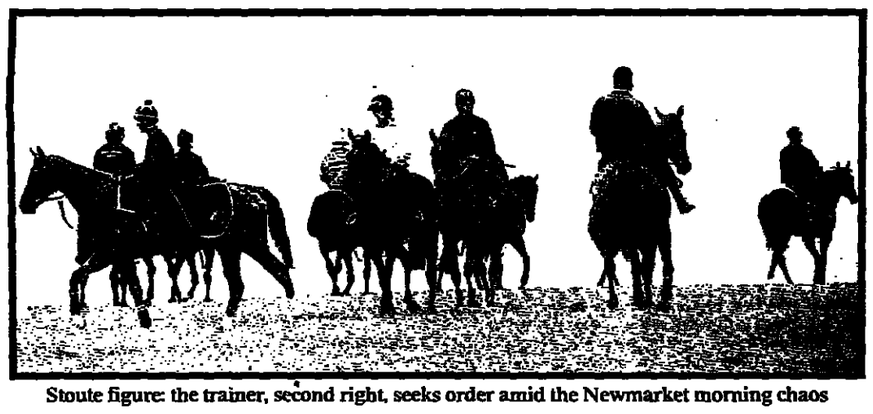
Mid-May in Newmarket. Spring in the air as an established fact, skylarks hallelujahing above. Spring gives the air a special quality in Newmarket: and so does the Derby. Perhaps the Derby is sport's ultimate Rite of Spring: now two weeks away. Expectation is relished in Newmarket as a racehorse relishes Polos.

"That one," Stoute said from the height of his chestnut hack, politely to the hack on the ground beside him. "Tucked in alongside the horse with the white blaze." If you didn't know, you wouldn't know; I love that eternal mystery of racing. At casual glance, you can't tell the Derby winner from the other 499-or-so horses visible at any one time from the middle of Warren Hill.

Nothing to make you stop and start and turn you head and say, wow, this is the one. A serviceable-looking dark bay, looking a trifle insubstantial, cantering in relaxed fashion, work-rider, Jock Brown, crouched over his withers, relaxed and comfortable, having no need to wrestle his mount into good behaviour. This was balanced, sensible, serious, purposeful.

And perhaps the winner of the Derby. Greek Dance, now 5-1 for the big one after hacking up in a race that was named for one of the better class of hacks, a man who was, of course, my late and splendid colleague. Yes, win the Michael Seely Memorial Glasgow Stakes and what can stop you winning the Derby?

But you don't get Seely's old friend Stoute getting overbullish about his horses. He was purring quietly — there is a cat-like quality about him, unusual in so big a man — but he was not about to give any one inflationary ideas about Greek Dance. Or any other horse. Going quite well, he said. Bajan vowels always distinct in his speech. Always liked the look of him. Quite pleased, yes. Did some fast work yesterday. I was quite pleased."



Stoute figure: the trainer, second right, seeks order amid the Newmarket morning chaos

And afterwards, back at Freemason Lodge, Greek Dance untacked, pawing at the ground, waiting to have his head-collar untied, and then at last a brief, luxurious roll on his shavings bed, and then out into the rough square of grass in the middle of the three-sided stable block.

Unsightly, this grass, far too long, but then it is for horses to eat, not for humans to look at. Half-past eight and work is done for the day, at least, it is for the horses. A pick of grass, Greek Dance with his head down, relaxed, cool, unfussed. Close to, he is hard-muscled, far more substantial than he looked at his canter.

Brown, still in his riding helmet, was prepared to be more forthcoming about the horse than the trainer, but lads and work-riders are even greater optimists than trainers. "He's got star quality," he said. "I felt that from the moment I first sat on him. Just something about his action, the way he moved. The governor thought a lot of him right from the start, too."

Brown is one of those men who seem to be bred especially for riding racehorses: a child's body with an incongruously ancient face, lines carved by years of hard experience in hard weather. Seen it all, done it all, and can't see any reason ever to do anything else. Racing runs on such people. And the horse? "Very relaxed, laid-back type of horse."

His dam, or mother, Hellenic, was at Freemason Lodge in her time and a fine racing filly she was, too, winning the Yorkshire Oaks and second in the St Leger. Sire or father, Sadlers Wells, son of the polyphiloprogenitive Northern Dancer. So the name works out and Derby winners almost always have good names.

> **"We've run out of obvious Horse of the Century contenders, or, at least, put the idea on hold"**

Trainers love to train horses from the same breeding line, sons and daughters of sires and dams that came to them as crazy, skittering two-year-old colts and fillies. They seek excellence to follow excellence, lightning to strike once, and then again, and perhaps again. It works, too. But not every time: in racing, in horses, nothing works every time.

It is a wildly open Derby this year, at least, that is what the betting market says. We have run out of obvious Horse of the Century contenders, or at least, put the concept on hold until the Derby is actually run. Perhaps we have a handful of brilliant horses: perhaps none of them are much cop this year; perhaps there is one stand-out, brilliant scorcher of the turf about to blaze his stuff across the cambers of Epsom in a fortnight.

Which is it to be? Greek Dance was back in his box to doze away the rest of the morning: one hack was also back in his box, another hack was enjoying his breakfast and talking cricket with the trainer. Stoute believes South Africa will have the edge over England this summer. If he believes that Greek Dance will have the edge over the rest in two weeks, he is not saying so.

And then second lot, and the roads and byways of Newmarket once again taken over by the endless lines of horses. No point to all these horses, you know, no point at all. And no point in poetry at all, either, no point in any art, come to that. Hands up who wants to live without such things?

Bristol seek to stay the course

By David Hands

BRISTOL and London Irish have been here before, of course, but it does not get any easier. By tomorrow, both clubs will know whether they will continue as part of the English rugby elite, or whether they are doomed to second-division rugby, and, while the Irish have recent experience of relegation, for Bristol it would be an utter shock to the system.

For 110 years Bristol's has been an honoured name, but this afternoon they face an ambitious London Scottish side in the first-division play-offs that holds a four-point lead from the first leg and an ability to win games that Bristol have all but lost.

A club that can only win two of its 22 Allied Dunbar Premiership games does not deserve to stay up. Bristol's lifeline being the reconstruction of the Premiership for next season. Romance and professional sport do not go hand in hand, although many will hope for Bristol's survival.

If ever Bristol required their supporters to turn out in force, it is today. They hope that such forwards as Fullman and Poole will be fit and the availability of Mike Worsley at prop will be welcome against a Scottish XV from which Derrick Lee, suspended by his club after being sent off in the first leg last weekend, is replaced at full back by Iain McAusland.

Bristol must also deal with Josh Lewsey, the Bristol University student, who will leave on Wednesday with England on their southern-hemisphere tour. The club believes Lewsey to be in breach of his contract and hopes to stage a disciplinary hearing before England depart.

London Irish, who came away from Rotherham breathing heavily on Wednesday after claiming a fortuitous three-point advantage, should feel happier at Sunbury.

RUGBY UNION: SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST BLACK STAR IS ON THE RISE AGAIN

Williams confident of winging his way back on to international stage

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

AS ONE great name, Philippe Sella, departs the stage as captain of a glittering World XV it is time for us to welcome back another. The face of Chester Williams was, arguably, one of the most recognisable symbols of the 1995 World Cup, so frequently did it adorn lamp-posts and shop fronts in his native South Africa.

So where has Williams been since then that his appearance at Twickenham today, for the guest XV to play Newcastle, the Allied Dunbar Premiership champions, in the third Sanyo Cup match (the guests beat Leicester in 1996 and Wasps last year) should provoke such interest? "On crutches," Williams might say tersely were he prone to hyperbole, which he is not, or to self-pity, which he has learnt to avoid.

In effect, the story of Williams's absence from the game coincides with the decline of South African hopes that rugby could be a nation-building exercise. He was the one black player in the winning South Africa World Cup squad of 1995, the shining example of what the underprivileged majority could achieve; cruelly, he was removed from the game in 1996 and 1997 by two career-threatening injuries and, at the same time, the sport's politics created what seemed to many a reversion in South Africa.

Now Williams is back with a cheerful optimism that bodes well for his individual ambitions and for his country. He can, he insisted, reclaim his place in the South Africa team whose first outing of a new season will be against Ireland, on June 13 in Bloemfontein, and it is his belief that within two years — perhaps even in time for the 1999 World Cup squad — he will have been joined by four or five more black players as the development process springs forward once more.

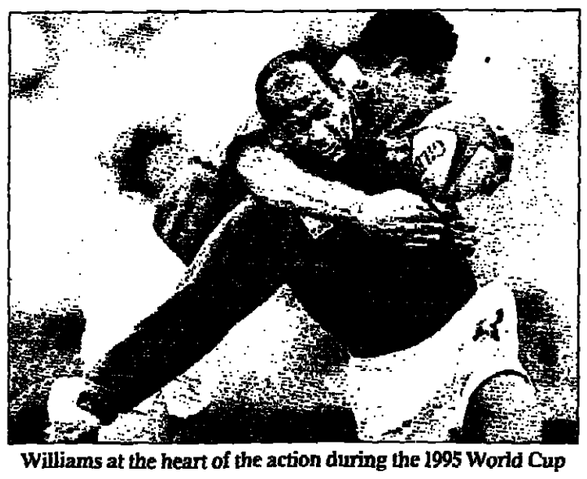
He talks with enthusiasm of a system that will bring the best 50 black players together in a training camp where they can work on their speed, their skills, their weight training. "They have the skills, but they need to work harder and above all they need encouragement," he said. "I think they will get that now."

Our last sighting of Williams was November 1995, again at Twickenham, when he scored two tries, had a third denied him by the referee and South Africa beat England 24-14. Then his teammates included Francois Pienaar and Joel Stransky; now both men are key components of the English club game and Williams is working his way back to a situation where he, too, could become a hot property, open to offers from English clubs.

Remember the sharp skill with which Williams, down the left wing, linked so effectively with André Joubert in short-side attacks that baffled better teams than England were that day? Though no more than 5ft 9in, Williams possessed a stabbing, lethal burst of speed and a rugby sense that set him apart and brought him 13 tries in 16 internationals.

He came to grief playing for Western Province against Canterbury in March 1996, when a colleague offloaded possession and Williams's right knee gave way as he twisted for the ball. The cruciate ligaments were so badly damaged that the rest of the year was spent in rehabilitation.

In April 1997, playing against Griqualand West, he tried to sidestep out of defence and the left knee collapsed, the damage the same. Reconstruction required the insertion of two long screws — the right knee has one — but it was the mental reconstruction that taxed Williams as much as his physical problems.



Williams at the heart of the action during the 1995 World Cup

The question "why me?" occurred time and again. "There were times when I thought I wouldn't play again," he said.

"The physio kept telling me 'just another week', and you begin to doubt whether you'll make it." The doubts, though, are behind Williams as, at 27, he launches another assault on international rugby.

Called into the Western Stormers side (one of South Africa's four, largely disappointing, teams in the Super 12 tournament) he scored two tries against Otago Highlanders and was hailed as the player of the match.

"I'm very confident I can get back to where I was," Williams said as he relaxed at the Park Lane Hilton this week, in familiar company. Not only does he join his countrymen, Pienaar, Marius Hurter and Hannes Strydom, but also Tiaan Strauss, the No 8 summoned from Australia, whose calming presence as a member of the South Africa back row helped the young Williams when he first became a member of the national squad five years ago. "Some of the Test wings are struggling for form and people say I'm performing well.

"Playing in the Sanyo Cup match will lift my confidence further and I've heard that the Springbok management will be looking at the video. It will be good preparation." Some might say that the return of Williams to the international game would also help South Africa to turn an unhappy page and help to heal some self-inflicted wounds.

NEWCASTLE: S Legg, J Naylor, V Tuigamala, M Snow, A Tait, J Wilkinson, G Armstrong, N Popplewell, R Nesdale, P Van-Zandvliet, G Archer, G Weir, P Lam, R Arnold, P Walton.
WORLD XV: P Vaccari (Italy), C Williams (South Africa), P Sella (France), S Glas (France), P Bernat-Salles (France), D Knox (Australia), A Pichot (Argentina); C Blades (Australia), R Ibañez (France), M Hurter (South Africa), J Strydom (South Africa), W Waugh (Australia), M Giovanelli (Italy), F Pienaar (South Africa), C Strauss (South Africa)
Referee: S Piercy (Yorkshire).

Ebbw Vale hoping to overthrow aristocrats of cup

By Gerald Davies

SINCE the inauguration of the Welsh Cup competition in 1972, Llanelli have won the trophy nine times. They have been losing finalists on another three occasions. Cardiff come closest to this achievement and, although it took them ten years to win a final, they have made significant steps since then to succeed seven times and to lose three.

Thus, if ever a club can be said to be motivated by the one-off, sudden-death mood of a cup tournament, it must be Llanelli. They won the double in 1993, but have never been able to accustom themselves consistently enough to the requirements of a long league programme, even when it has been as curtailed as that of this season.

Typically, while they have failed to be among the top four in the Welsh League premier division this year, which consequently disqualifies them from European competition next season, they have done well in the cup. Indeed, they are making their thirteenth appearance in the Swalec Cup final.

Their opponents this afternoon at Ashton Gate, Bristol, are from the other side of the tracks. There is no silverware in the impoverished cupboard of Ebbw Vale. They have never before enjoyed the honour of a place at the final. A semi-final position is the best they can look back upon, when they lost to Newport in 1977, and last year when they failed against Swansea.

Swansea may well be the team of the season in winning the premier division in some style, but anyone with a touch of romance in his heart would nominate Ebbw Vale as the club of the season. Thought to be unfashionable, or presumed to be a place where rugby ambitions die, they have almost been anonymous. Yet, quietly on the blind side as it were, they have forced everyone to take notice.

Without much trumpeting they are accomplishing their objectives. Last year they simply wanted to survive in the premier division and not be relegated. They did so by a whisker. Earlier on they had said they wanted to reach the cup semi-final. That, too, they did.

This year they have gone a step farther and succeeded without overloading their debts. Not only have they reached the top half of the division, which was their original objective, but they have finished in the top four and so qualify for Europe at the expense of their opponents this afternoon.

They play their rugby in the manner they set their objectives elsewhere and the close control they manage over their finances: with a sure grasp on reality. Led by Kingsley Jones, the Wales flanker who has been excluded from Wales's touring party to South Africa, Ebbw Vale have experience at half back in David Llewellyn and Byron Hayward. Woodard is a powerful and strong-running wing. But it is at forward that they will wish to make their presence felt.

Laid low with injuries in the front row, Llanelli have recruited Martin Madden. Although a native of Cardiff, he has played his rugby in Penzance. Nonetheless, he has already made two appearances for the Stradey Park club. He will be hard tested in an area in which Ebbw Vale thus far have shown plenty of confidence.

EBBW VALE: S Taumaiolo, A Hamles, J Hawker, J Funnell, L Woodard, B Hayward, D Llewellyn, A Phillips, L Phillips, M Wilson, C Billen, K Faleseu, R Collins, K Jones (captain), M Jones.

LLANELLI: D Williams; W Proctor, N Boobyer, N Davies, G Evans; C Warlow, R Moon, A Jones, R McBryde (captain), M Madden, V Cooper, M Voyle, C Wyatt, I Jones, H Jenkins.

Referee: C Thomas (Gwent)

RACING: GODOLPHIN CHALLENGER CAN TOPPLE SECOND EMPIRE IN IRISH 2,000 GUINEAS

Fa-Eq to halt O'Brien's classic march

By Chris McGrath

THE restoration of Ballydoyle as the most forbidding citadel in the bloodstock world can be measured by the reception punters are giving Second Empire, who reappears in the *Hibernia Foods Irish* 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh today.

Aidan O'Brien has furnished the magnates of Coolmore with such prodigious success that he is rivalling the glory of Ballydoyle's first emperor, his namesake, Vincent. And punters have quickly decided that this extraordinary young trainer deserves not just respect, but blind devotion.

He has already produced King Of Kings in pristine splendour for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket and Saratoga Springs, also first time out, for the Dante Stakes at York. Now Second Empire is being quoted as short as 7-4 for the Vodafone Derby, though O'Brien indicated yesterday that there is "a strong possibility" King Of Kings will also go to Epsom.

There is a widespread assumption that Second Empire's most strenuous task today will be getting to the start — which would actually have been too ambitious an undertaking only three weeks ago when it was discovered that Second Empire had pulled a muscle in his hindquarters. Yet he has evidently made a complete recovery.

Second Empire was one of last year's best juveniles, unbeaten including two visits to Longchamp, where he beat solid yardsticks in Muhtathir (on fast ground) and Charge D'Affaires (soft). His handsome physique promised more this season, too, but his Derby price does seem a touch ludicrous.

The same optimism has infected his odds today. Unfortunately, it is difficult to oppose him with his exciting stablemate, Bianconi, as he is not guaranteed to stay a mile. A 13-length winner over six furlongs at Navan last month, his full-brother, Hamas, won the July Cup. Another whose stamina looks limited is Desert Prince, who faded inside the last when trying this trip in the French equivalent.

Dermot Weld would, no doubt, love to retrieve the limelight through Two-Twenty-Two, who has really flourished this spring. But he has only raced on soft ground.

The one plausible alternative is **Fa-Eq**, representing the blue corner of Godolphin. The Dubai team offers the keynote opposition to Coolmore — and has effectively picked up the gauntlet by supplementing Fa-Eq for today's classic.

Fa-Eq looked an exciting prospect when running away with his maiden at the Newmarket Guineas meeting, and a number of subsequent winners have emerged from the ruck. He must raise his game today, but reports suggest that he is bursting his punchbag on the gallops.

Even if Second Empire were to run a creditable Derby trial against Fa-Eq, Godolphin could have another crack at him with their filly, Cape Verdi, whose form is put to the test tomorrow in the Airlie Coolmore Irish 1,000 Guineas.

The O'Brien-trained Shahtoush was beaten five lengths by Cape Verdi in the Newmarket version, with Cloud Castle finishing fastest, two short-heads away in fourth. The firmer ground will count against Cloud Castle, who looked primed for the extra Oaks distance. Further might also suit Godolphin's runner here, La Nuit Rose.

Shahtoush, who is joined by three stablemates, has a favourite's chance, but the each-way value might lurk with **Time Limit**, supplemented after hacking up on her debut at Killarney.



ED BYRNE

Second Empire is odds-on for today's Irish 2,000 Guineas

TODAY'S LINE-UP AT THE CURRAGH

GOING: GOOD

4.10 HIBERNIA FOODS IRISH 2,000 GUINEAS (BBC1 C4)
(Group I: 3-Y-O: £118,700: 1m) (7 runners)

1	(4)	2-1	BIANCONI 28 (S) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 9-0	W R Swinburn	83+
2	(1)	422-831	COCONUT CREEK 6 (G) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 9-0	J A Heffernan	79
3	(6)	1254-13	DESERT PRINCE 13 (F,S) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder (GB) 9-0	O Peslier	[illegible]
4	(5)	2-1	FA-EQ 20 (D,G) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 9-0	L Dettori	111
5	(7)	111-	SECOND EMPIRE 223 (D,G,S) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien 9-0	C Roche	112
6	(2)	61-111	TWO-TWENTY-TWO 21 (C,D,S) (Moyglare Stud Farm) D Weld 9-0	M J Kinane	114
7	(3)	0-06	UNTOLD STORY 40 (Moyglare Stud Farm) D Weld 9-0	P J Smullen	–

BETTING: 11-8 Second Empire, 5-2 Fa-Eq, 7-2 Bianconi, 7-1 Desert Prince, 8-1 Two-Twenty-Two, 50-1 others.

1997: DESERT KING 9-0 C Roche (3-1) A P O'Brien 12 ran

TOMORROW'S CLASSIC FIELD

4.15 AIRLIE COOLMORE IRISH 1,000 GUINEAS (BBC2)
(Group I: 3-Y-O: £84,250: 1m) (13 runners)

1	(3)	604-244	ATTRACTIVE CROWN 18 (S) (A Brennan) K Prendergast 9-0	S Craine	80
2	(5)	3-14	CLOUD CASTLE 21 (S) (S Manana) C Brittain (GB) 9-0	J Reid	119
3	(6)	1222-00	CRAZEE MENTAL 21 (G) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn-Jones (GB) 9-0	A Mackay	112
4	(8)	212-32	HEED MY WARNING 22 (BF) (J Hurl) C Collins 9-0	P Shanahan	106
5	(11)	2400-21	KITZA 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Stockwell) A P O'Brien 9-0	J A Heffernan	99
6	(2)	1-3	LA NUIT ROSE 14 (S) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 9-0	L Dettori	84+
7	(13)	22252-	MEMPARI 246 (BF) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 9-0	K Fallon	101
8	(12)	3241-12	SHAHTOUSH 21 (CD,S) (Mrs D Nagle) A P O'Brien 9-0	M J Kinane	[illegible]
9	(10)	1-	SHARP CATCH 224 (S) (Mrs H Keaveney) A P O'Brien 9-0	C Roche	80
10	(9)	50-15	SILCA KEY SERVICE 10 (D,S) (Aldridge Racing Ltd) M Channon (GB) 9-0	R Hughes	91
11	(7)	3151-0	TARASCON 21 (C,G,S) (Mrs J Rowlinson) T Stack 9-0	J P Spencer	99
12	(1)	1	TIME LIMIT 13 (D,S) (R Sangster) T Stack 9-0	Pat Eddery	–
13	(4)	1025-	WINONA 209 (G) (Lady Clague) J Oxx 9-0	J P Murtagh	94

BETTING: 11-4 Shahtoush, 7-2 Cloud Castle, 11-2 La Nuit Rose, 13-2 Sharp Catch, 10-1 Heed My Warning, Tarascon, 12-1 Mempari, 14-1 others.

1997: CLASSIC PARK 9-0 S Craine (20-1) A P O'Brien 10 ran

Lucayan Indian ready to pick up winning trail



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

HAYDOCK PARK
BBC1

2.00: Lamarita, who is closely weighted with Tadeo and Blessingindisguise on their run behind Stuffed at York, did not enjoy a clear run on the Knavesmire and can gain compensation here. She needs to be held up for a late run but, with a furious pace guaranteed by the front-running Westcourt Magic, she should be able to overcome a wide draw.

2.30: John Gosden has made a *quiet start to the season, but it* could be worth taking a risk with **Zelanda**. The Night Shift filly hacked up over course and distance last August in a fast time before running well behind Cape Verdi in the Lowther Stakes. Pool Music, placed twice in group company last year, might appreciate further along with Fizzed, and Eastern Purple looks a bigger threat.

3.00: *The form book highlights* the chances of Florazi, a comprehensive winner of a decent Sandown handicap last month, and the progressive Tom Dougal, who is seeking to complete a quick treble after winning at Newmarket and York. However, gallops reports suggest that **Lucayan Indian** has improved sufficiently over the winter to make a winning seasonal reappearance. The David Loder-trained runner, who has been working with his best three-*year-olds at home, ended last* season winning the Houghton *Stakes at Newmarket.*

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

3.15: Kira, a course and distance winner last year, must have fast ground to be seen at her best and, after bouncing back to form at Thirsk eight days ago, she can follow up *with conditions in her favour.* There should be plenty of pace *with Daawe, That Man Again* and Tiler all liking to race prominently.

3.45: Chester House disgraced himself at Kempton on his seasonal reappearance *when he panicked in the starting stalls. If he behaves today, the Mr Prospector colt* can win, especially as the step up in trip *should suit.* Asad has won two slowly-run races, while Deep Dive has not run since beating Prolix in March. Soviet Bureau was not disgraced in the 2,000 Guineas and should appreciate this trip *and drop in class.*

4.20: Persiano will be fancied *to complete a quick treble after* an impressive Salisbury win. However, he races off a 10lb higher mark which will take some overcoming. **Safio**, a course and distance winner, can return to form after showing up well over an inadequate six furlongs at Haydock.

Richard Evans

KEMPTON PARK
CHANNEL 4

3.05: *A number of these need* to be held up, which could *play into the hands of* **Supreme Sound**, who dictated a modest pace when wisely returned to fast ground at Beverley last time. Though not always looking quite so game, Bardon Hill Boy could go well at a price. Flint Knapper did not settle at Chester, and may again be hard to restrain from his outside draw.

3.35: *Speedfit Too's participation in the 2,000 Guineas did not look quite so eccentric after* he was beaten less than seven lengths — but he has sometimes looked a little quirky, and can be opposed with **Golden Dice**. This colt's solid juvenile form includes a fine *run on fast ground behind* Teapot Row and Gulland at *Doncaster. Raise A King has* run well in hot handicaps this term, *while Zelah looks a* promising filly.

4.05: High Intrigue struggled, admittedly *in a bog, to win a poor maiden at Chester last year and may not have enjoyed* returning to those dizzy left-hand turns on his reappearance. Shahrur and Ivor's Flutter both represent stables in form. However, they may be better with some cut underfoot. Life Of Riley's game win here was virtue of a good tactical *ride.*

4.35: Zuhair shaped well over an inadequate five fulongs at York last week, but could again have been better drawn. By contrast, **Delta Soleil** is plum against the rail and is certainly handicapped to capitalise. Having been beat*en a neck at Salisbury last* summer, he has slipped down *to a 12lb lower mark here.* He showed up well for a long way over seven furlongs last time out and sprinting could prove his game. Marsad's chance is diminished by faster ground.

Chris McGrath

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LUCAYAN INDIAN
(3.00 Haydock Park)
Next best: Kira
(3.15 Doncaster)

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Anselman
2.30 Fizzed
3.00 **FLORAZI** (nap)
3.30 Classic Manoeuvre
4.00 Volontiers
4.30 Karisal
5.05 Slipstream

Timekeeper's top rating: 5.05 TARXIEN.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 LUCAYAN INDIAN (nap).

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 BE FRIENDLY HANDICAP (BBC1)
(£6,302: 5f) (9 runners)

101	(8)	00100-4	TADEO 10 (CD,F,G,S) (J Good) M Johnston 5-10-0	Dean McKeown	97
102	(7)	200025-	CROWDED AVENUE 210 (BF,D,F,G) (T Wellard) P Makin 5-9-12	Pat Eddery	100
103	(4)	2-30103	THE GAY FOX 16 (D,F,S) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 4-9-12	T Quinn	99
104	(2)	33U03-6	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 10 (B,CD,F,G) (A Black) M W Easterby 5-9-11	T Lucas	[illegible]
105	(5)	001-005	RUDI'S PET 16 (D,G,S) (J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-8	J Fortune	100
106	(3)	00-5101	WESTCOURT MAGIC 16 (CD,F,G,S) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 5-9-7	L Charnock	98
107	(1)	10313-3	LAMARITA 10 (D,F,G) (Park Lane Racing) J Eustace 4-9-4	J Tate	98
108	(6)	5216014	SWINO 7 (V,C,D,F,S) (Swinnerton Transport Ltd) P Evans 4-9-2	Dane O'Neill	96
109	(9)	0-05441	ANSELLMAN 12 (B,D,F,G,S) (Ansells of Watford) J Berry 8-8-11	D Holland	90

BETTING: 7-2 Westcourt Magic, 5-1 The Gay Fox, 6-1 Crowded Avenue, Lamarita, 7-1 Blessingindisguise, Anselman, 8-1 Tadeo, 10-1 others

1997: TEDBURROW 5-10-0 A Culhane (16-1) E Alston 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Crowded Avenue 3¾l 5th of 22 to Rudi's Pet (4lb worse off) in handicap at Doncaster (5l, good) with Tadeo (1lb better off) 5¾l 11th, Westcourt Magic (3lb worse off) 7½l 14th and Anselman (8lb better off) 13l 20th. Westcourt Magic beat Ziggy's Dancer neck in 8-runner handicap at Chester (5f 16yd, good to firm) with The Gay Fox (1lb better off) ¾l 3rd, Rudi's Pet (6lb better off) 5¾l 5th and Swino (levels) 8¾l 7th. Lamarita ¼l 3rd of 16 to Stuffed in handicap at York (5l, good) with Tadeo (3lb better off) 1½l 4th and Blessingindisguise (4lb better off) 2½l 6th. Swino 4¾l 4th of 11 to Benzoe in handicap at Thirsk (6l, good to firm); previously beat First Maite neck in 12-runner handicap at Haydock (5f, good to soft). Anselman beat Pierpoint 3½l in 7-runner claiming stakes at Redcar (6l, good), previously 2¼l 4th of 10 to Eastern Prophets in claiming stakes at Doncaster (6f, good to firm).

BLESSINGINDISGUISE, gambled on last time, can recoup losses here

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Bastiman	4	12	33.3	Pat Eddery	22	75	29.3
D Smith	4	14	28.6	T Quinn	10	39	25.6
A Stewart	5	21	23.8	R Ffrench	3	13	23.1
J Dunlop	23	103	22.3	Dane O'Neill	4	27	14.8
J Gosden	21	99	21.2	A Culhane	8	63	12.7
W Jarvis	5	26	19.2	D Holland	6	57	10.5
R Fahey	3	16	18.8	S Drowne	6	60	10.0

2.30 SANDY LANE RATED HANDICAP (BBC1)
(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £12,486: 6f) (11 runners)

201	(7)	1312-04	JIMMY TOO 8 (D,S) (J Graham) B McMahon 9-7	J Fortune	106
202	(3)	1413-06	BODYGUARD 8 (V,D,F,G,S) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-5	T Quinn	100
203	(5)	2431-35	HOH CHI MIN 14 (C,D,G,S) (D Allport) M Bell 9-5	M Fenton	97
204	(10)	3030-05	POOL MUSIC 7 (F) (Mrs C Parker) R Hannon 9-4	Dane O'Neill	101
205	(4)	3216-	ZELANDA 275 (CD,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
206	(8)	01544-0	EASTERN PURPLE 18 (D,F) (T Chiang) R Fahey 8-9	J Carroll	101
207	(1)	11420-	PARISIAN LADY 231 (D,F) (Advanced Marketing Ltd) A Newcombe 8-9	S Drowne	109
208	(11)	31100-0	JAY GEE 20 (B,D,F,G) (J Guest) G Margarson 8-8	P Robinson	100
209	(6)	410-1	FIZZED 30 (S) (Duke of Roxburghe) M Johnston 8-7	D Holland	100
210	(9)	2004510	CLASSY CLEO 7 (CD,F,G,S) (J Abbey) P Evans 8-7	L Charnock	101
211	(2)	114-0	ONLY FOR GOLD 17 (F,S) (J Milner & S Milner) J Berry 8-7	P Fessey	97

Long handicap: Classy Cleo 8-4, Only For Gold 8-3.

BETTING: 3-1 Zelanda, 7-2 Fizzed, 7-1 Hoh Chi Min, 8-1 Jimmy Too, Classy Cleo, 10-1 Only For Gold, 12-1 Bodyguard, Pool Music, 14-1 others.

1997: TOMBA 9-7 Dean McKeown (4-1) B Meehan 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Jimmy Too 7½l 4th of 7 to Bold Edge in 3yo stakes at Newbury (6l 8yd, good to firm) with Bodyguard (6lb better off) 16l 6th. Hoh Chi Min 2¾l 5th of 9 to Nanoushka in 3yo fillies stakes listed at Lingfield (7l, good). Pool Music 9½l 5th of 7 to Bold Fact in 3yo stakes (listed) at Newmarket (7l, good to firm). Zelanda 5¼l 6th of 9 to Cape Verdi in 2yo fillies group 2 stakes at York (6l, good). Parisian Lady 13l last of 8 to Name Of Love in 3yo fillies listed stakes at Newmarket (7l, good to firm). Jay Gee 50l 14th of 16 to Cape Verdi in group 1 stakes at Newmarket (1m, good). Fizzed beat Julies Jewel neck in 13-runner 3yo handicap at Beverley (7l 100yd, soft). Classy Cleo 7¾l 12th of 13 to Torrent in 3yo handicap at Thirsk (5l, good to firm); previously beat Friar Tuck neck in 13-runner 3yo handicap at Chester (5l 16yd, good) with Eastern Purple (8lb better off) 4¾l 10th. Only For Gold 14l 10th of 16 to Blundell Lane in 3yo handicap at Chester (6l 18yd, good); previously 9¼l 4th of 13 to Ra Ra Rasputin in 2yo stakes at Wolverhampton (6l, fibresand).

JAY GEE is a lazy type and the blinkers might improve concentration

3.00 TOTE CREDIT SILVER BOWL HANDICAP (BBC1)
(3-Y-O: £21,690: 1m 30yd) (11 runners)

301	(8)	5611-1	FLORAZI 28 (D,F,G,S) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 9-7	Pat Eddery	108
302	(6)	123-140	TIMEKEEPER 21 (G,S) (C Wall) M Bell 9-5	M Fenton	91
303	(5)	011-	LUCAYAN INDIAN 218 (F,S) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 9-4	D Holland	98+
304	(4)	165-0	JAZZ CLUB 18 (C,F) (W Farish III) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	97
305	(3)	02-3011	TOM DOUGAL 9 (D,G) (Mrs N Stewart) C Smith 8-11	J Fortune	101
306	(1)	210-03	ARCTIC AIR 19 (S) (T Scothern) E Weymes 8-8	R Ffrench	97
307	(11)	0139-4	COLLEVILLE 20 (G) (K Powter) M Jarvis 8-6	P Robinson	101
308	(10)	3020-05	PREMIUM PURSUIT 18 (G) (J Parsons) R Fahey 7-13	F Norton	94
309	(2)	1001-60	PANAMA HOUSE 37 (D,F,G) (P England) T Easterby 7-12	L Charnock	100
310	(9)	5-1163	MOON GORGE 19 (D,S) (Lady Howard de Walden) W Jarvis 7-12	R Mullen (3)	[illegible]
311	(7)	022-1	FRENCH CONNECTION 18 (S) (P Dodd) J Berry 7-12	P Fessey (3)	95

BETTING: 9-4 Lucayan Indian, 11-4 Florazi, 11-2 Tom Dougal, 10-1 Timekeeper, 12-1 Colleville, Moon Gorge, 16-1 Jazz Club, Panama House, French Connection, 20-1 others.

1997: ALEZAL 9-1 S Sanders (5-2 fav) W Jarvis 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Florazi beat Wupi Venture 4l in 10-runner 3yo handicap at Sandown (1m 14yd, soft). Lucayan Indian beat Astrologer 1l in 6-runner 2yo stakes at Newmarket (7l, good to soft). Tom Dougal beat Carambo 1½l in 16-runner 3yo handicap at York (7l 202yd, good). Premium Pursuit 3l 5th of 13 to Bodfari Pride in 3yo handicap at Chester (7l 122yd, good) with Jazz Club (2lb better off) 7¾l 9th. Panama House 17l 7th of 11 to Ambiguous in 3yo handicap at Ripon (1m, soft); previously 5¼l 6th of 22 to Julies Jewel in 3yo handicap at Doncaster (7l, good to soft) with Premium Pursuit (3lb better off) 22l 19th. Moon Gorge 2¼l 3rd of 19 to Persiano in 3yo handicap at Warwick (7l, good), previously 6½l 6th of 21 to Jila in 3yo handicap at Newmarket (7l, good to soft). French Connection beat Lemon Bridge ½l in 5-runner 3yo maiden auction stakes at Hamilton (1m 1f 36yd, soft).

LUCAYAN INDIAN impresses some very experienced judges as a future group horse

3.30 MEEK DISTRIBUTION-CAN DELIVER MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,680: 1m 2f 120yd) (12 runners)

401	(11)	06	ABIL-JOOD 18 (B) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 9-0	P Robinson	87
402	(4)	4420-	CLASSIC MANOEUVRE 283 (P & J Green) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	101
403	(10)	0	CORELLI 20 (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 9-0	F Lynch	89
404	(12)	2-4	LEGAL LUNCH 14 (BF) (Alleged Partnership) P Harris 9-0	T Quinn	94
405	(6)		LUCAYAN SPRING (Lucayan Stud) M Johnston 9-0	D Holland	–
406	(7)		MASSENET (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	Pat Eddery	–
407	(9)	0	RAKEEB 20 (H al-Maktoum) A Stewart 9-0	T G McLaughlin	80
408	(5)	2244-	THE GENE GENIE 203 (R & M Berrow) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0	S Drowne	[illegible]
409	(2)		TORY BOY (Mrs N Mathias) I Williams 9-0	R Ffrench	–
410	(1)	5	GORGEOUS GUSSY 7 (N Abdullah) M Bell 8-9	M Fenton	83
411	(3)		MISS LACROIX (Mrs N Harris) R Hollinshead 8-9	D Hayden (7)	–
412	(8)	0-	MY FLOOSIE 211 (A Eaton) P Bevan 8-9	D Denby (7)	–

BETTING: 5-2 Massenet, 11-2 Corelli, 7-1 Legal Lunch, Lucayan Spring, 8-1 Classic Manoeuvre, Rakeeb, The Gene Genie, 10-1 others.

1997: HERITAGE 9-0 J Carroll (1-2 fav) J Gosden 5 ran

4.00 STANLEY RACING MAIDEN STAKES (£3,469: 7f 30yd) (8 runners)

501	(4)	0	HILLINSKI 8 (Birch Vale Racing) M Mullineaux 4-9-10	L Charnock	67
502	(5)	02/	FAIRY RING 601 (Mrs M Schofield) R Whitaker 4-9-5	Dean McKeown	–
503	(2)	54-2	GRAND SLAM 15 (Mrs D Wight) R Hannon 3-8-13	Dane O'Neill	76
504	(7)	00	MERRY PRINCE 20 (D Fisher) M Jarvis 3-8-13	P Robinson	70
505	(8)	20-	SILVERTOWN 280 (BF) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 3-8-13	J Carroll	91
506	(6)	2-42	VOLONTIERS 15 (Commoners) P Harris 3-8-13	Pat Eddery	[99]
507	(3)	0	HEBONY 22 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-8-8	A Garth	–
508	(1)	0	MISS SERENGETI 13 (M Pennell) J Barry 3-8-8	J Fortune	–

BETTING: 5-2 Volontiers, 11-4 Grand Slam, 3-1 Silvertown, 5-1 Hebony, 12-1 Merry Prince, 16-1 Miss Serengeti, 20-1 Fairy Ring, 33-1 Hillinski.

1997: SWEET CONTRALTO 3-8-8 D R McCabe (8-1) D Loder 5 ran

4.30 EBF BAY 96.9 FM MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,163: 5f) (7 runners)

601	(2)	0	ABBIE BLUEYES 16 (T Beston) M W Easterby 8-11	T Lucas	–
602	(3)		ALMOST AMBER (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-11	Pat Eddery	–
603	(4)	2	BOLLIN RITA 21 (Lady Westbrook)-T Easterby 8-11	L Charnock	[79]
604	(6)		ENTROPY (T Holdcroft) R Hannon 8-11	Dane O'Neill	–
605	(7)	4	KARISAL 16 (Mrs J Hawkins) J Berry 8-11	J Fortune	67
606	(1)	04	LUNE LASS 12 (Mrs A Birkett) E Weymes 8-11	R Ffrench	78
607	(5)	5	TOP ORDER 11 (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-11	T Quinn	71

BETTING: 9-4 Almost Amber, 3-1 Karisal, 4-1 Top Order, 6-1 Bollin Rita, 8-1 Entropy, 10-1 Lune Lass, 20-1 Abbie Blueyes.

1997: SEA MAGIC 8-11 D Holland (2-1) B Hills 3 ran

5.05 MTB GROUP HANDICAP (£3,469: 1m 6f) (7 runners)

1	(5)	232223/	MENTAL PRESSURE 641 (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-0	L Charnock	–
2	(4)	33/6/30	GEORGE DILLINGHAM 10 (CD,F,G) (J Blair) D Smith 8-9-9	J Carroll	78
3	(7)	1104-20	CAMPASPE 10 (D,F,G) (J FitzGerald) J FitzGerald 6-9-9	J Fortune	81
4	(3)	6342-33	TARXIEN 20 (C,G,S) (Ginge Racing Partnership) K Burke 4-9-7	D Holland	[95]
5	(6)	000-055	TURGENEV 21 (CD,G,S) (Mrs B Tranmer) R Bastiman 9-8-8	Pat Eddery	86
6	(2)	00-0620	SLIPSTREAM 17 (BF) (Matthews Racing) R Guest 4-8-8	P Robinson	74
7	(1)	/50550-	SHARAF 336J (F) (D Deer) W Muir 5-7-12	R Ffrench	69

BETTING: 5-2 Tarxien, 7-2 George Dillingham, 9-2 Campaspe, 5-1 Slipstream, 7-1 Turgenev, 8-1 Mental Pressure, 14-1 Sharaf

1997: EXPRESS GIFT 8-8-6 D Harrison (100-30 fav) Mrs M Reveley 10 ran

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

1.55 Zante
2.30 Champagne Rider
3.05 Flint Knapper
3.35 Raise A King
4.05 Ivor's Flutter
4.35 Marsad
5.10 Spanish Fern

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.05 High Intrigue. 5.10 Cyber World.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.55 CALIFORNIAN MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,046: 1m) (11 runners)

1	(5)	5	ALLY 37 (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) M Stoute 9-0	J Reid	97
2	(11)	50	ELEGANT HERO 8 (B Allen) R Hannon 9-0	R Hughes	87
3	(1)	222-5	ELHABUB 21 (BF) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	R Hills	[108]
4	(10)		GOLDFAME (N Yong) W O'Gorman 9-0	J Stack	–
5	(9)		KING LION (R Arculli) R Armstrong 9-0	G Carter	–
6	(4)		THATS LIFE (T Mills) T Mills 9-0	J Quinn	–
7	(8)	00	TIEBREAKER 18 (Tiebreakers) N Graham 9-0	R Cochrane	76
8	(3)		KRISTA (C Hart) J Toller 8-9	S Sanders	–
9	(6)		PORTENT (Hesmonds Stud) Lady Herries 8-9	A Clark	–
10	(2)		ZANTE (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-9	W Ryan	–
11	(7)		ZILVA (T Warner) P Makin 8-9	D Griffiths (3)	–

BETTING: 7-4 Ally, 9-4 Zante, 100-30 Elhabub, 10-1 Elegant Hero, 12-1 King Lion, 16-1 Portent, 20-1 others.

1997: MARIE DORA 8-9 S Whitworth (11-2) I Balding 12 ran

2.30 NEW ENGLAND CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,518: 6f) (7 runners)

1	(6)	13	CHAMPAGNE RIDER 18 (C,S) (Highgrove Dev Ltd) K McAuliffe 9-0	J Reid	[109]
2	(7)	01	KING FOLEY 18 (V,F) (Foley Steelstock) W G M Turner 9-0	D McGaffin (7)	94
3	(5)	0	DIAMOND GEEZER 7 (J B R Leisure Ltd) R Hannon 8-10	W J O'Connor	87
4	(1)		ASLEY (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 8-7	T Sprake	–
5	(2)		PAS DE PROBLEME (Capt F Burns) M Blanshard 8-7	J Quinn	–
6	(3)		SAILING SHOES (Mrs C Parker) R Hannon 8-7	R Hughes	–
7	(4)		TRIO (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) G Lewis 8-7	Paul Eddery	–

BETTING: 5-4 Champagne Rider, 9-2 Diamond Geezer, 11-2 King Foley, Asley, 10-1 Sailing Shoes, 12-1 others.

1997: CHIPS 9-3 R Hughes (6-4 fav) D Elsworth 7 ran

3.05 SYDNEY HANDICAP (£5,992: 1m 2f) (14 runners) (C4)

1	(5)	151056-	SONG OF FREEDOM 237 (D,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-10-0	W Ryan	100
2	(11)	31030-	LORD EUROLINK 295 (S) (Eurolink Group Plc) J Dunlop 4-9-13	G Carter	97
3	(3)	60/051-	FABLED LIGHT 370 (S) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 4-9-12	M Roberts	105
4	(1)	36121-0	FLINT KNAPPER 18 (BF,D,F,S) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 4-9-8	M Hills	101
5	(9)	20-3600	BARDON HILL BOY 35 (D,F) (Miss M Breslin) B Hanbury 6-9-7	R Hills	97
6	(14)	100230-	MATTIMEO 196 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Keogh) Lady Herries 5-9-7	R Cochrane	[108]
7	(8)	201410/	HAMLET 682 (D,F) (M Hawn) Mrs J Cecil 5-9-6	J Reid	–
8	(7)	/65200-	SILVER GROOM 148J (D,F,S) (Silver Darling Pinez) M Channon 8-9-2	R Hughes	103
9	(4)	130-401	SUPREME SOUND 13 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-9-1	M Rimmer	103
10	(12)	0-00030	SECRET BALLOT 22 (D,S) (W al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 4-9-0	W J O'Connor	99
11	(6)	23013-3	MOUNT HOLLY 10 (G) (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 4-9-0	J Lowe	90
12	(2)	02223-1	GUARANTEED 47 (W Said) B Hills 3-8-11	Paul Eddery	87+
13	(10)	55-0603	INDIUM 14 (W Musson) W Musson 4-8-6	S Whitworth	91
14	(13)	33-3135	HERR TRIGGER 44 (B,D,F) (Mrs S Scargill) Dr J Scargill 7-8-6	J Quinn	87

BETTING: 5-1 Supreme Sound, 11-2 Flint Knapper, 7-1 Guaranteed, 8-1 Song Of Freedom, Fabled Light, 10-1 Lord Eurolink, Mattimeo, Mount Holly, Indium, 12-1 others.

1997: EFFECTUAL 4-9-6 R Hughes (11-2 fav) Miss G Kelleway 16 ran

Song Of Freedom 5¾l 6th of 14 to Ridaiyma in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good to firm). Fabled Light beat Thornby Park 1¾l in 5-runner 3yo handicap at Ripon (1m 4f 60yd, good to soft). Flint Knapper 6¾l 7th of 10 to Break The Rules in handicap at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good). Supreme Sound beat Legal Issue ¼l in 8-runner handicap at Beverley (1m 1f 207yd, good to soft). Secret Ballot 8l 8th of 24 to Carlys Quest in handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to soft) with Indium (5lb better off) 21l 20th. Mount Holly 8l 3rd of 11 to Release To Lose in handicap at Lingfield (1m, equitrack); previously 2½l 3rd of 23 to Tipperary Sunset in ladies handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to soft). Guaranteed beat Stravsea 1¼l in 4-runner 3yo maiden auction stakes at Southwell (7l, fibresand).

GUARANTEED has sneaked in on a light weight and is worth supporting

3.35 CRAWLEY WARREN HERON STAKES (C4)
(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £14,070: 1m) (6 runners)

1	(3)	4142-	GOLDEN DICE 241 (BF,G) (S Khaled) H Cecil 8-12	W Ryan	106
2	(2)	1-25	MISTER RAMBO 10 (BF,G) (Abbott Racing Ltd) B Meehan 8-12	R Hughes	97
3	(6)	3112-50	RAISE A KING 9 (F,G) (M Tabor) J W Payne 8-12	J Reid	[114]
4	(4)	1213-50	SPEEDFIT TOO 21 (F,G) (J Guest) G Margarson 8-12	G Carter	111
5	(5)	31	JINSIYAH 22 (S) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 8-7	R Hills	97
6	(1)	4-1	ZELAH 10 (F) (J Hawker) B Smart 8-7	J Stack	94

BETTING: 9-4 Speedfit Too, 5-2 Golden Dice, 4-1 Jinsiyah, 6-1 Zelah, 8-1 Mister Rambo, 10-1 Raise A King

1997: AMONG MEN 8-12 R Cochrane (10-11 fav) M Stoute 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Golden Dice 1¾l 2nd of 4 to Mutamam in 2yo stakes at Chester (7l 122yd, good). Raise A King 8½l 7th of 19 to Ho Leng in 3yo handicap at York (6l 214yd, good). Speedfit Too 6¾l 8th of 18 to King Of Kings in group 1 at Newmarket (1m, good to soft). Jinsiyah beat Swing Along neck in 15-runner maiden fillies stakes at Newmarket (7l, good to soft). Zelah beat Ring Dancer 2l in stakes at Lingfield (7l, good to firm) with Mister Rambo (6lb better off) 7½l 5th.

RAISE A KING can dent some reputations now he is tried over a mile

4.05 CRAWLEY WARREN HANDICAP (C4)
(£8,442: 2m) (11 runners)

1	(4)	32110-0	MOTET 22 (D,F,G) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 4-9-10	M Hills	96
2	(9)	/00-110	IVOR'S FLUTTER 17 (CD,G,S) (W Parry) D Elsworth 9-9-6	N Pollard (7)	95
3	(6)	251500/	WISHING 64J (C,F,S) (A Spence) T D Mccarthy 7-9-5	S Sanders	–
4	(8)	5040-06	GENERAL ASSEMBLY 17 (G) (Craftsmen) G Margarson 6-9-3	G Carter	84
5	(3)	41101-0	HIGH INTRIGUE 17 (D,F,G,S) (Lordship Stud) H Cecil 4-9-1	W Ryan	90
6	(11)	20046-4	PREMIER NIGHT 8 (F,G) (D Churston) S Dow 5-9-0	J Reid	100
7	(2)	1400-01	LIFE OF RILEY 6 (B,C,F) (J Manley) B Meehan 4-8-13	M Tebbutt	87
8	(5)	506000-	FLETCHER 162J (F) (Lady Margadale) H Morrison 4-8-9	R Hughes	[112]
9	(1)	0/1420-	SHAHRUR 57J (S) (Mrs E Kernan) G L Moore 5-8-4	J Quinn	87
10	(10)	050-433	SEA FREEDOM 20 (V,BF,F,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 7-7-12	Martin Dwyer	98
11	(7)	54506/1	WITNEY-DE-BERGERAC 13 (G,S) (E Houghton) J S Moore 6-7-10	N Adams	90

BETTING: 3-1 High Intrigue, 4-1 Life Of Riley, 5-1 Ivor's Flutter, 6-1 Sea Freedom, 7-1 Motet, Premier Night, 12-1 Shahrur, Witney-de-Bergerac, 25-1 others.

1997: SHINING DANCER 5-8-4 J F Egan (6-1) S Dow 10 ran

FORM FOCUS General Assembly 5¾l 6th of 18 to Silence In Court in handicap at Chester (2m 2f 147yd, good) with High Intrigue (3lb worse off) 7l 7th and Ivor's Flutter (1lb worse off) 16l 11th. Premier Night 2l 4th of 13 to Al's Alibi in handicap at Newbury (1m 4f 5yd, good to firm). Life Of Riley beat Russian Rose ¾l in 8-runner handicap at Kempton (1m 6f 92yd, good to firm). Sea Freedom 5l 3rd of 6 to Thornby Park in handicap at Salisbury (1m 6f 15yd, good to soft), previously 3¼l 3rd of 8 to Ivor's Flutter (4lb worse off) in handicap at Sandown (2m 78yd, soft). Witney-De-Bergerac beat Colendge ¾l in 15-runner handicap at Bath (2m 1f 34yd, good)

Simon Dow's stable is running into form and PREMIER NIGHT can prove the point

4.35 SINGAPORE HANDICAP (£7,003: 6f) (13 runners) (C4)

1	(3)	0220-00	ZUHAIR 10 (D,F) (C Bagley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 5-9-10	R Hughes	99
2	(4)	500-000	JAYANNPEE 10 (D,F,G) (I Balding) I Balding 7-9-9	Leanne Masterton (7)	91
3	(10)	002-621	MISTER JOLSON 5 (CD,F,G,S) (B Froome) R Hodges 9-9-9 (6ex)	N Pollard (7)	87
4	(2)	/060-13	MARSAD 21 (CD,S) (Canisbay Bloodstock Ltd) J Akehurst 4-9-8	S Sanders	[109]
5	(11)	12602-0	DISTINCTIVE DREAM 13 (B,CD,F,G) (R Bremner) Lady Herries 4-9-8	R Cochrane	100
6	(6)	10500-0	RIFIFI 21 (D,G) (Brooknight Guarding Ltd) R Ingram 5-9-6	J Reid	100
7	(7)	/04-250	INDIAN BRAVE 21 (J Good) B Meehan 4-9-5	M Tebbutt	107
8	(13)	4420-00	SIR JOEY 13 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 9-9-1	M Roberts	97
9	(12)	2261-30	SUPREME ANGEL 14 (G,S) M Muggeridge 3-8-12	D Griffiths (3)	94
10	(5)	000550/	SHIKARI'S SON 658 (D,F,G) (Alan Spargo Ltd) J Cullinan 11-8-12	D Sweeney (3)	–
11	(1)	6-00006	DELTA SOLEIL 9 (F) (American Quarrel) V Soane 6-8-8	C Rutter	105
12	(8)	522	FAUTE DE MIEUX 13 (Mrs V Yonell) A P Jones 3-8-6	J Quinn	78
13	(3)	5300100	HANNAH'S USHER 16 (D,F,G,S) (R Raynor) B Baugh 6-7-10	J Lowe	89

Long handicap: Hannah's Usher 7-7

BETTING: 7-2 Marsad, 5-1 Mister Jolson, 6-1 Indian Brave, 7-1 Distinctive Dream, 10-1 Rififi, Sir Joey, Supreme Angel, Faute de Mieux, 12-1 others.

1997: MISTER JOLSON 8-8-12 R Cochrane (5-1 fav) R Hodges 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Zuhair 3¼l 7th of 16 to Stuffed in handicap at York (5l, good) with Jayannpee (1lb better off) 6½l 11th. Mister Jolson beat At Large neck in 5-runner stakes at Bath (5l 11yd, firm), previously 3¼l 2nd of 13 to The Gay Fox in handicap at Sandown (5l 6yd, heavy) with Sir Joey (15lb better off) 22l 12th. Marsad ½l 3rd of 29 to Sheltering Sky in handicap at Newmarket (6l, good) with Indian Brave (6lb better off) 4¾l 8th, Jayannpee (12lb better off) 8¾l 17th and Rififi (8lb better off) 17l 26th. Distinctive Dream 7½l 9th of 12 to Swing in handicap at Haydock (6l, good to soft), previously 1¼l 2nd of 7 to Always On My Mind in 2yo & 3yo stakes at Newmarket (6l, good to firm). Sir Joey 12l last of 18 to Divine Miss-P in handicap at Bath (5l 11yd, good). Supreme Angel 5¾l 9th of 20 to Hill Magic in 3yo handicap at Lingfield (6l, good), previously 5¼l 3rd of 6 to Island Race in 3yo fillies stakes at Kempton (6l, good). Shikari's Son 7¼l 14th of 30 to Coastal Bluff in handicap at Goodwood (6l, good to firm), previously 4½l 5th of 18 to Double Splendour in handicap at York (6l, *good to firm). Delta Soleil 7½l 6th of 20 to Persiano in handicap at Salisbury (6l 212yd, firm),* previously 28l 12th of 17 to Pleading in handicap at Pontefract (6l, soft). Faute De Mieux ½l 2nd of 16 to Talavera in 3yo maiden stakes at Beverley (5l, good), previously ½l 2nd of 11 to Shanillo in 3yo maiden auction stakes at Folkestone (6l, soft). Hannah's Usher 7¾l 7th of 11 to Henry The Hawk in handicap at Hamilton (5l 4yd, soft), previously 2¾l 7th of 17 to Dande Flyer in handicap at Bath (5l 11yd, soft).

MARSAD ran in a very hot race last time and is still ahead of the handicapper

5.10 CALIFORNIAN MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,046: 1m) (10 runners)

1	(2)	0652-0	AL MABROOK 56 (H Al-Muzaini) K Mahdi 9-0	W J O'Connor	87
2	(5)	43	CYBER WORLD 7 (Marchos Family) Mrs J Cecil 9-0	W Ryan	[98]
3	(8)	0	PACIFYC 8 (T Benson) W Muir 9-0	J Reid	65
4	(10)	50	TAJME 19 (Mrs Godney, Mrs Horgan & Mrs Harris) P Harris 9-0	J Quinn	70
5	(3)		TANSHAN (M Hawkes) A Stewart 9-0	M Roberts	–
6	(7)	00	TRUSCOTT 20 (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 9-0	M Hills	56
7	(1)	20	WAITING KNIGHT 37 (A Ali) B Hanbury 9-0	R Hills	65
8	(4)	2	HIGH DEMAND 20 (BF) (W Gredley) B Hills 8-9	Paul Eddery	66+
9	(9)		LADY OF LORIEN (M Arman) B McMath 8-9	N Day	–
10	(6)	3-	SPANISH FERN 203 (B) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 8-9	T Sprake	76

BETTING: 5-2 Cyber World, 3-1 Spanish Fern, 4-1 Truscott, 6-1 Waiting Knight, 10-1 High Demand, 12-1 Al Mabrook, Tanshan, 25-1 others.

1997: BYZANTIUM 9-0 R Perham (7-1) Lord Huntingdon 10 ran

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Chepstow (first race, 2.30), Leicester (2.20), Redcar (2.15), *Sandown Park (C4, 2.05)*, Cartmel (2.00), Fontwell Park (2.00), Hereford (2.30), Huntingdon (2.00), Wetherby (2.15), Uttoxeter (2.10)

TUESDAY: Leicester (2.15), Redcar (2.00), *Sandown Park (6.15)*, Hexham (6.30)

WEDNESDAY: Folkestone (1.40), Yarmouth (2.20), Newbury (6.00), Ripon (6.40), Cartmel (2.00)

THURSDAY: Ayr (2.20), Brighton (2.10), Uttoxeter (2.00)

FRIDAY: Ayr (2.20), Catterick (2.00), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10), Bath (6.25), Stratford (6.10)

SATURDAY: Catterick (2.00), Lingfield Park (2.15), Newmarket (C4, 2.10), Kempton Park (6.20), Musselburgh (6.40), Stratford (C4, 2.25), Market Rasen (7.00).

Flat meetings in bold

RACELINE
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HAYDOCK	101	201
KEMPTON	102	202
DONCASTER	103	203
CARTMEL	104	204
HEXHAM	105	205
WARWICK	106	206
LINGFIELD	107	207
IRISH	120	220

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Dunlop's Milan plan

FIAMMA, third in the Pretty Polly Stakes for John Dunlop, and Luca Cumani's Brighton winner Zomaradah will run in tomorrow's Italian Oaks in Milan. The group one event, run over a mile and three furlongs, has attracted a field of nine, *including the Italian 1,000 Guineas winner Sopran Londa.* Atoll (1990) and Nicole Pharly (1997) were the last two fillies to complete the Italian 1,000 Guineas-Oaks double. The listed winners, Splendida Idea and Fair Weather, are on the upgrade and could also take a hand in the finish. Caterina Sforza looks best of the remainder.

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7/2 Fizzed
8/1 Ho Chi Min
10/1 Jimmy Too
10/1 Only For Gold
11/1 Classy Cleo
11/1 Eastern Purple
11/1 Pool Music
12/1 Jay Gee
12/1 Parisian Lady
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1 mile, Haydock 3.00pm, Live on BBC TV.

5/2 Lucayan Indian
3/1 Florazi
13/2 Colleville
13/2 Tom Dougal
8/1 Moon Gorge
12/1 Panama House
14/1 French Connection
14/1 Premium Pursuit
18/1 Jazz Club
20/1 Timekeeper
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RACING

Titus Andronicus to keep Irving in hunt

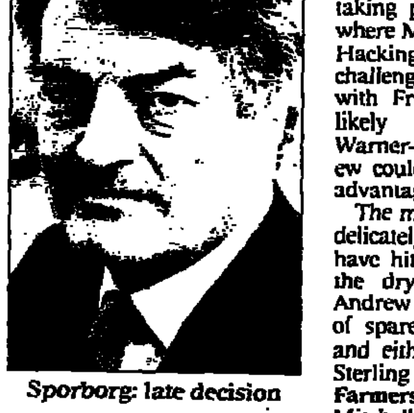
POINT-TO-POINT
BY CARL EVANS

TO RUN, or not to run, that was the question facing owners and trainers yesterday, after another ground-drying seven days. Watering certainly helps if done properly, but rough ground, after the wet fixtures in April, has proved a real problem, especially when numerous championships are at stake.

Take Heather Irving for example. She rode her eighteenth winner of the season on Sunday, one more than her total gained over the previous seven years. "All I have ever wanted is to be ladies' champion in the South Midlands," Irving said yesterday, "but I'm only one win and a third ahead of Lawney Hill, so I'm still not safe."

Irving and Hill continue their championship duel tomorrow at the Berks & Bucks meeting, but that is only part of the equation facing Irving. She still has a theoretical chance of winning the national title. Also, her 11-year-old Titus Andronicus is only one behind in the race to be champion horse and her ten-year-old Lily The Lark holds a dwindling advantage in the mares' contest.

Today, Irving rides Titus Andronicus at the Melton Hunt Club meeting, where watering and unraced turf on the bends could combine to produce reasonable ground. A victory would put Titus Andronicus level with Shake Five and St Gregory, who have each collected eight victories this season.


Sporborg: late decision

Lisa Rowe, St Gregory's rider, said yesterday that the ten-year-old would be having a weekend off, but Shake Five could take on Titus Andronicus.

Shake Five's trainer, Christopher Sporborg, said yesterday: "We'll sit down this evening and discuss the possibility, but he had a hard race last week and is still only seven."

Similar deliberations were taking place in East Sussex, where Mike Roberts and Paul Hacking were considering a challenge for the novices' race with Frenchy Malta. In his likely absence, the Bill Warner-trained Jack's Nephew could be the one to take advantage.

The men's championship is delicately poised, and looks to have hit a hiatus created by the dry spell. The leader, Andrew Dalton, has a couple of spare rides, Bruff Castle and either Rockville Pike or Sterling Buck, at the Tredegar Farmers meeting, while Tim Mitchell, his nearest challenger, heads to the Dulverton East fixture for a single outing on Leejay Luki.

Pip Jones, with one hand on the women's title, should capture the ladies' race at the Welsh meeting on Touch 'N' Pass and she also has the hunt race at her mercy with Warren Boy.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Dulverton East at Mounsey Hill Gate, 4m N of Dulverton (first race 2.00); Melton Hunt Club, Garthorpe, 5m E Melton Mowbray (2.15); Tredegar Fmrs, Bassaleg, N of J28 M4 (2.30). TOMORROW: Axe Vale, Stafford Cross, 2m W Seaton (1.30); Berks & Bucks, Kingston Blount, 8m N High Wycombe (2.00).

Saluter chases big bonus

SALUTER, a nine-year-old American gelding trained in Maryland, attempts to win a $100,000 bonus for the second year running in the Marlborough Cup timber race final, run over three miles at Barbury Castle in Wiltshire tomorrow (Carl Evans writes).

Owned, trained and ridden by Jack Fisher, 34, Saluter won the Virginia Gold Cup, also over timber fences, in his home state earlier this month and now chases the bonus given to any horse which wins both races. He achieved the double — and collected the generous bonus — 12 months ago, in spite of a much-delayed and lengthy crossing. However, his preparation this year has been much smoother.

Merry Gale, one of two Irish-trained runners, will be Tony McCoy's first ride in the race. The champion National Hunt jockey is deputising for Paul Carberry, who is sidelined with a broken leg. The Jim Dreaper-trained ten-year-old was partnered by McCloy in a schooling round over seven timber fences on Thursday. The pair were accompanied by the eventer, Perry, and Merry Gale, who looked a natural, is likely to start favourite after a victory at Punchestown recently.

Brendan Powell, Richard Johnson, Jonathan Leech and Simon Burrough are other professional jockeys taking part in an event comprising chasers, point-to-pointers and eventers. The prize for the winner is £15,000 and prize-money goes down to fifth place, with the first pointer ridden by an amateur picking up £2,000.

The race, which forms part of a countryside day, is due off at 4pm.

CARTMEL

THUNDERER
2.20 Non Vintage. 2.50 Paparazzo. 3.20 Danegeld. 3.50 Woodstock Wanderer. 4.25 Pebble Beach. 4.55 Niknaks Nephew.
Carl Evans: 3.20 Tactix.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 MOORGATE RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,814: 2m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)
1 0623 HOUSE OF DREAMS 8 (CD,G) G M Moore 6-12-0 N Bentley
2 -460 STYLISH ALLURE 15 (G,S) P Bowen 5-11-13 W Marston
3 2003 NON VINTAGE 14F (D,G,S) M Chapman 7-11-13 W Worthington
4 1021 WADADA 19 (D,F,G) D Burchell 7-11-1 D J Burchell
5 5604 SARMATIAN 24 (F,G) F Murtagh 7-10-12 A Dobbin
6 1225 SILVERDALE LAD 210 (BF,D,G) K Hogg 7-10-9 M Foster
7 3F31 GOING FOR BROKE 7 (D,G) C Mann 4-10-9 J Magee (3)
11-4 House Of Dreams, 4-1 Wadada, 5-1 Non Vintage, 6-1 others.

2.50 MARTEN JULIAN NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,967: 2m 1f 110yd) (10)
1 P114 ROYAL CRIMSON 40 (V,F,G,S) M Hammond 7-12-0 A P McCoy
2 3302 PAPARAZZO 14 (G) G M Moore 7-11-8 A Dobbin
3 3F35 JUDICIOUS NORMAN 54 J Adam 7-11-6 B Powell
4 3124 MOSS PAGEANT 21 (G) F Walton 8-11-1 D Parker
5 3244 DESERT CALM 19 D McCain 9-10-0 S Wynne
6 4440 APPEARANCE MONEY 6F (G) F Murphy 7-10-0 K Whelan
7 2450 WILLIE WANNABE 12 M Chapman 8-10-0 W Worthington
8 -2P6 SUNKALA SHINE 21 S Clark 10-10-0 J Magee (3)
9 P1-5 VALE OF YORK 50 (F) S Clark 10-10-0 Michael Brennan
10 -000 BALLYKISSANGEL 5F N Bycroft 5-10-0 F Leahy (3)
9-4 Paparazzo, 3-1 Royal Crimson, 5-1 Moss Pageant, 6-1 Desert Calm, 8-1 Judicious Norman, 12-1 Sunkala Shine, 14-1 Appearance Money, 16-1 others.

3.20 WORTHINGTON MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (£1,891: 3m 2f) (14)
1 22F2 DANEGELD 14P (F,G) David F Smith 7-12-0 Mr N F Smith (7)
2 R1PF DON TOCINO 14P (G) H Bell 8-12-0 Mr N Kent (7)
3 362U EASTLANDS HI-LIGHT 8 (G,S) J Staveley 9-12-0 Mr T Morrison (7)
4 2P30 KINGS TOKEN 21 (G) F Walton 8-12-0 Mr J Walton
5 2-33 LEDWYCHE GATE 17 (F,G) G Evans 11-12-0 Mr R Bevis (7)
6 13P2 LITTLE GLEN 7P (F,S) A Crozier 10-12-0 Mr T Scott (7)
7 3514 SNAPPER 9 (S) Miss C Dawson 7-12-0 Mr C Storey (5)
8 2F42 THE CAFFLER 7P (F,S) C Ramsay 8-12-0 Miss R Ramsay (7)
9 22/F THREE POTATO FOUR 90P (F,S) Sir J Barlow Bt 11-12-0 Mr D Barlow (7)
10 0P31 TIMBER TOPPER 14P (G,S) P Wilkin 8-12-0 Mr N Wilson (5)
11 P314 VERY DARING 14P (F,S) Miss S Sharratt 8-12-0 Miss S Sharratt (7)
12 -220 YOUNG PARSON 7 (F) R Owen 12-12-0 Mr T Marlow (7)
13 -521 TACTIX 28P (S) R Ford 8-11-9 Mrs C Ford (7)
14 031R SLIP AWAY 7P (G) D Alan Harrison 5-11-7 Mr D Jewett (7)
7-2 Timber Topper, 4-1 Danegeld, 11-2 Tactix, 6-1 Ledwyche Gate, 7-1 Eastlands Hi-Light, 10-1 Snapper, 12-1 The Caffler, 20-1 others.

3.50 BURLINGTON SLATE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,009: 2m 6f) (10)
1 0543 SNOWY PETREL 19 (F) C Mann 6-11-10 Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
2 1824 WHAT JIM WANTS 10 (S) J J O'Neill 5-11-8 R McGrath (3)
3 F1F1 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 7 (G,S) P Bowen 6-11-6 W Marston
4 1104 CRABBIE'S PRIDE 29 (S) Mrs S Smith 5-11-6 R Wilkinson (5)
5 0004 WINTERS KEEP 40 M Meagher 6-10-10 J Callaghan
6 3303 THIRTY BELOW 12 (D,F) M Chapman 9-10-8 W Worthington
7 F051 FRANKIE HARRY 17 (G) Miss V Williams 5-10-5 A P McCoy
8 0000 GOLDEN BAR 21 (F) C Grant 7-10-2 S McNeill
9 PU4P THIRKLEBY SKEENA 21 P Beaumont 7-10-0 W Dowling (5)
10 40PB HAMILTON PRINCESS 42 K Hogg 6-10-0 M Foster
3-1 Woodstock Wanderer, 7-2 What Jim Wants, 6-1 Frankie Harry, 7-1 Snowy Petrel, Crabbie's Pride, 8-1 Thirty Below, 10-1 Winters Keep, 16-1 others.

4.25 CALDERPRINT NOVICES CHASE (£2,784: 3m 2f) (6)
1 1P22 GOWER-SLAVE 10 (BF,D,F,G) P Bowen 6-11-8 W Marston
2 FP54 PEBBLE BEACH 61 (BF,F,G) G M Moore 8-11-8 J Callaghan
3 2PP0 ALLERBANK 22 Mrs J Storey 7-11-2 Mr C Storey
4 4053 CORALETTE 40 S Brookshaw 8-11-2 A Dobbin
5 5535 MULLINS 22 D Moffatt 7-11-2 D J Moffatt
6 23F8 WAR WHOOP 136 (F) Miss L Russell 6-11-2 Michael Brennan
6-4 Gower-Slave, 3-1 Pebble Beach, 6-1 Coralette, War Whoop, 8-1 Allerbank, 10-1 Mullins.

4.55 STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING NOVICES HURDLE (£3,046: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)
1 P161 NIKNAKS NEPHEW 10 (B,F,G) C Egerton 6-11-12 A P McCoy
2 3422 DOWN THE YARD 58F (D,G) M Chapman 5-11-7 W Worthington
3 2400 AMOEBIC 109 M Todhunter 5-11-0 A Dobbin
4 0-0 CRAIGIE BOY 16F N Bycroft 8-11-0 F Leahy (3)
5 R000 PENDLETON 14 P Beaumont 5-11-0 J Callaghan
6 3 SOPHIE LOCKETT 250F K Hogg 5-10-9 M Foster
7 P TWIN PLEASURES 17 J Bewley 4-10-4 J Magee (3)
1-2 Niknaks Nephew, 9-2 Down The Yard, 8-1 Amoebic, 14-1 Sophie Lockett, 16-1 Craigie Boy, 20-1 Pendleton, 50-1 Twin Pleasures.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: P Bowen, 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%; G M Moore, 6 from 12, 50.0%; Mrs S Smith, 6 from 20, 30.0%; P Beaumont, 4 from 14, 28.6%; J J O'Neill, 4 from 14, 28.6%; D Moffatt, 4 from 22, 18.2%.
JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 6 winners from 13 rides, 46.2%; N Bentley, 3 from 7, 42.9%; A Dobbin, 10 from 31, 32.3%; R McGrath, 4 from 18, 22.2%; D Moffatt, 5 from 26, 19.2%. Only qualifiers.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER
2.10 Hunting Slane. 2.40 Thank U Jim. 3.10 Charlistiona. 3.40 Out On A Promise. 4.10 Kinda Groovy. 4.40 Up For Ransome.
Carl Evans: 2.40 Thank U Jim.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 THREEPWOOD NOVICES HURDLE (£1,632: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)
1 4632 MELTEMISON 11 (F) M Hammond 5-11-8 R Garritty
2 3005 BRANCH END 14 J Charlton 6-11-0 B Storey
3 0000 CHARLIE D'OR 10 J Dodds 5-11-0 R Johnson
4 40P0 GONE ASHORE 142 (F) M Barnes 7-11-0 S Taylor (3)
5 0233 HUNTING SLANE 14 C Grant 6-11-0 R Supple
6 660 JUST LIZZIE 9 R Nixon 5-10-9 E Callaghan
7 000 MR MAHDLO 28 R Woodhouse 4-10-8 L Wyer
8 00 NAUGHTY FEELINGS 14 W McKeown 4-10-8 Mr G Lake (7)
4-5 Meltemison, 3-1 Hunting Slane, 6-1 Branch End, 14-1 Just Lizzie, 20-1 Mr Mahdlo, Naughty Feelings, 25-1 Charlie d'Or, Gone Ashore.

2.40 FLYING ACE HUNTERS CHASE (£1,283: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)
1 -P21 THANK U JIM 7P (D,F,G,S) Mrs G Sunter 10-12-7 Miss T Jackson (7)
2 862P PRIVATE JET 9 I A Brown 9-12-0 Mr G Markham (7)
3 PP4P SOMERBY 6P (F,G) I Park 11-12-0 Mr G Coulter (7)
4 F6PF TWO GOOD JUDGES 9 (G) S Collinson 8-12-0 Mr S Coltherd (7)
5 0-PP WILL TRAVEL 7P (F,S) A Dickman 9-12-0 Mr R Morgan (7)
6 35U2 HEADS OR TAILS 7P J Hughes 7-11-9 Mr M Bradburne (5)
7 PPPP SOUND PROFIT 7P W Young 10-11-9 Mr C R Weaver (7)
8 5U00 SUDDEN SALLY 7P J Hughes 7-11-9 Miss L Bradburne (7)
4-7 Thank U Jim, 11-2 Private Jet, 8-1 Heads Or Tails, 12-1 Somerby, 14-1 Two Good Judges, 16-1 Will Travel, Sudden Sally, 50-1 Sound Profit.

3.10 HALTWHISTLE MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,534: 2m) (5)
1 660 LET'S HANG ON 8 J Turner 5-11-10 J Supple
2 6003 CHARLISTIONA 10 (D,G) J Dodds 7-11-10 R Johnson
3 06FP MEADOWBURN 28 (F) W Reed 8-11-4 T Reed
4 PPP0 SINGING PROFIT 14 W Young 6-11-1 S Taylor (3)
5 000P DELIGHTFOOL 3 R Nixon 7-10-8 B Storey
4-5 Charlistiona, 3-1 Let's Hang On, 6-1 Delightfool, 7-1 Meadowburn, 25-1 Singing Profit.

3.40 HAYDON NOVICES CHASE (£2,310: 2m 110yd) (13)
1 4344 HAM N'EGGS 14 (B,D,F,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-7 R Garritty
2 50PP AHBEJAYBUS 10 (B) Miss L Siddall 9-11-0 J Supple
3 6056 ASTRALEON 24 (D,F,G) R Allan 10-11-0 B Storey
4 P546 CADEAUX PREMIERE 22 (D,F) D Smith 7-11-0 E Callaghan
5 1133 GLENUGIE 17 (D,F,G,S) G M Moore 7-11-0 R Johnson
6 3000 HIGHBANK 14 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 G Lee
7 1PU3 OUT ON A PROMISE 7 (D,F,G) L Lungo 6-11-0 R Supple
8 6-60 OVER STATED 22 J Wade 6-11-0 K Johnson
9 33PP PATTER MERCHANT 24 Miss L Russell 9-11-0 Mr S Durack (3)
10 40RF REALLY USEFUL 7 M Todhunter 6-11-0 L Wyer
11 05U5 ROBARA 14 (F) M Barnes 8-11-0 S Taylor (3)
12 P655 STINGING BEE 9 W Reed 7-11-0 T Reed
13 UPPP TROPICAL REEF 55P C Parker 8-11-0 Mr R Morgan (7)
11-4 Glenugie, 4-1 Ham N'Eggs, 6-1 Out On A Promise, 7-1 Cadeaux Premiere, 8-1 Highbank, 10-1 Astraleon, 14-1 Patter Merchant, 16-1 others.

4.10 ELRINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,953: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)
1 4625 KINDA GROOVY 74 (B,CD,F,G) I Park 9-11-10 N Smith
2 F561 STYLISH INTERVAL 14 (CD,F,G) D Smith 6-11-9 B Storey
3 3535 SIGMA WIRELESS 17 (D,F,G) T Etherington 9-11-5 L Cummins (5)
4 0S0P THE STITCHER 14 (CD,F,G) W Reed 8-10-13 T Reed
5 25PP DONT FORGET CURTIS 14 (C,G) Mrs K Lamb 6-10-5 Miss S Lamb (7)
2-1 Kinda Groovy, 6-2 Stylish Interval, 4-1 Sigma Wireless, 5-1 The Stitcher, 7-1 Dont Forget Curtis.

4.40 LANGEY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,490: 3m 1f) (8)
1 P-F0 GREENHILL RAFFLES 10 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 12-11-10 R Johnson
2 5-41 NOVA CHAMP 14 (D,F,G) Mrs S Smith 10-11-7 G F Ryan (3)
3 66P2 KALAJO 8 (D,F,S) L Lungo 8-11-4 R Supple
4 P3-3 GERMAN LEGEND 22 (F) D Lamb 8-10-7 J Burke
5 3525 OVER THE MAINE 70P (D,F,G,S) E W Tuer 8-10-7 K Johnson
6 3302 UP FOR RANSOME 14 (F) Mrs A Naughton 9-10-5 J Supple
7 4143 I'M THE MAN 33 (BF,C,S) Mrs E Slack 7-10-2 B Storey
8 4456 JAUNTY GIG 205 (B,CD,F,G) J Dixon 12-10-0 L O'Hara
9-4 Nova Champ, 7-2 Kalajo, 5-1 Up For Ransome, I'm The Man, 6-1 German Legend, 16-1 Greenhill Raffles, Over The Maine, Jaunty Gig.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: D Smith, 3 winners from 11 runners, 27.3%; L Lungo, 22 from 89, 25.0%; G M Moore, 19 from 78, 24.4%; Miss L Siddall, 3 from 14, 21.4%; W McKeown, 4 from 24, 16.7%; R Allan, 3 from 22, 13.6%.
JOCKEYS: L Wyer, 9 winners from 44 rides, 20.5%; E Callaghan, 7 from 38, 18.4%; T Reed, 12 from 86, 14.0%; R Garritty, 11 from 86, 12.8%; K Johnson, 11 from 99, 11.1%; L O'Hara, 4 from 39, 10.3%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
6.10 Anjou. 6.40 Day Courage. 7.10 Ashkernazy. 7.40 Musical Twist. 8.10 Cherokee Band. 8.40 Double Rush.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (TURF COURSE); STANDARD (AW) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.10 PATIO SELLING HANDICAP (AW: £1,725: 2m) (14 runners)
1 0/2/ KATIE OLIVER 802J (BF) B McMath 6-10-0 Declan O'Shea 4
2 3-05 ANJOU 17 (CD,F,G) J Pearce 6-10-0 R Hughes 7
3 0300 ENGLISH INVADER 12 (C,S) C Dwyer 7-9-8 J Gotobed (7) 3
4 1332 MONACO GOLD 10 (F,S) D Cosgrove 6-9-1 M Rimmer 2
5 000/ SHELTERED COVE 1105 (CD,F) K Cunningham-Brown 7-8-13 A Clark 6
6 5642 CARROLLS MARC 5 (CD,F,G) Pat Mitchell 10-8-8 R Studholme (7) 14
7 2250 KRAYYAN DAWN 18 (C,F) J Akehurst 8-8-7 D Biggs 5
8 050/ SORISKY 569J (C) B Gubby 6-8-6 N Pollard (7) 10
9 0-50 ACROSS THE WATER 18 C Cyzer 4-8-6 A Whelan 11
10 60-0 FOLEYS QUEST 47J J S Moore 4-8-4 S Waddins (7) 13
11 60-0 GENERAL MONTY 5 (V) Mrs A E Johnson 6-8-3 J Lowe 12
12 -524 KING'S HUSSAR 15 (B) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-1 Martin Dwyer 1
13 0050 COASTGUARDS HERO 10 (CD) B Pearce 5-8-0 J Marshall 9
14 600 SANWOOD 18 J Bridger 5-7-10 P Doe (5) 6
7-2 Monaco Gold, 4-1 Carrolls Marc, 6-1 Krayyan Dawn, 7-1 English Invader, King's Hussar, 14-1 Anjou, 16-1 Katie Oliver, Sorisky, 20-1 others.

6.40 EBF LINGFIELD MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,531: 6f) (14)
1 5 BARTHOLOMEW 42 T Naughton 9-0 M Roberts 9
2 COPYFORCE BOY Miss B Sanders 9-0 A Clark 4
3 0 DAY COURAGE 21 (BF) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 J Reid 2
4 DOLPHINELLE R Hannon 9-0 R Cochrane 3
5 HILL STORM N McAuliffe 9-0 W J O'Connor 12
6 2 ISLAND HERO 13 J Noseda 9-0 W Ryan 6
7 JACK GOODMAN J S Moore 9-0 P P Murphy (3) 10
8 RIVER COURT E Dunlop 9-0 M Hills 5
9 SAAFEND ROCK R Hannon 9-0 R Hughes 7
10 TAMMAM C Benstead 9-0 R Hills 13
11 GHITA J Dunlop 8-9 T Sprake 1
12 ITSALLHAPPENING T Naughton 8-9 Paul Eddery 11
13 0 LAMENT 18 J Banks 8-9 M Rimmer 14
14 0 WEST STREET BLUES 8 T D McCarthy 8-9 S Sanders 8
5-4 Island Hero, 11-2 Ghita, 6-1 Day Courage, 10-1 Dolphinelle, River Court, Saafend Rock, 12-1 Bartholomew, 25-1 others.

7.10 BANISTER HANDICAP (£3,002: 5f) (13)
1 0500 MANGUS 15 (D,F) K Cunningham-Brown 4-10-0 S Sanders 11
2 050- ANTONIA'S CHOICE 250 (D,G) J Berry 4-9-7 M Hills 9
3 -044 POLLY GOLIGHTLY 8 (B,CD,F,S) M Blanshard 5-9-5 Dale Gibson 7
4 -042 FACILE TIGRE 2 S Dow 3-9-2 P Doe (5) 5
5 040- MIJAS 164 (C,D,F) L Montague Hall 5-9-2 W Ryan 13
6 -660 BARRANAK 15 (CD,F,G) G McCourt 6-9-1 R Studholme (7) 1
7 2440 FRIENDLY BRAVE 15 (D,F,S) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-0 R Hughes 8
8 0003 RUNS IN THE FAMILY 15 (B,CD,G,S) G McCourt 6-8-13 C Rutter 6
9 030- TURNERS WAY 179 S Dow 4-8-10 D Biggs 4
10 00-0 ASHKERNAZY 5 (D,F) N Berry 7-8-5 N Adams 12
11 -602 MISTER RAIDER 65 (B,D,F) E Wheeler 6-8-3 A Daly (3) 3
12 -200 BRIGHT PARAGON 15 (CD,F,G,S) K Ivory 9-8-2 Martin Dwyer 10
13 6000 LADY RALPHINA 20 J Bridger 3-7-10 N Pollard (7) 2
4-1 Polly Golightly, 11-2 Runs In The Family, 6-1 Facile Tigre, 7-1 Barranak, Mister Raider, 10-1 Friendly Brave, Ashkernazy, Bright Paragon, 12-1 others.

7.40 INDEPENDENT INSURANCE COMPANY MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,850: 1m 2f) (11)
1 0- CONICAL 234 R Charlton 8-11 T Sprake 11
2 0- IVORY CROWN 203 E Dunlop 8-11 M Hills 4
3 LUISIANA LADY B Hanbury 8-11 W Ryan 3
4 0 MISS SABRENA 22 S C Williams 8-11 Martin Dwyer 6
5 2-53 MUSICAL TWIST 17 (BF) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 J Reid 8
6 06 NANCY MALONEY 9 Miss G Kelleway 8-11 R Hughes 1
7 0 PASSIONATE PURSUIT 14 S Dow 8-11 M Roberts 2
8 2-24 PURSUIT VENTURE 21 S Woods 8-11 N Day 10
9 6-4 SALEELA 19 J Dunlop 8-11 Paul Eddery 9
10 0-0 SILVER SUN 19 D Elsworth 8-11 N Pollard (7) 7
11 44- TAJAWUZ 213 S bin Suroor 8-11 R Hills 5
2-1 Musical Twist, 4-1 Pursuit Venture, 9-2 Tajawuz, 6-1 Saleela, 8-1 Conical, 16-1 Ivory Crown, Luisiana Lady, 20-1 others.

8.10 GABLE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,236: 1m 2f) (14)
1 60-0 CALEDONIAN EXPRESS 19 J Dunlop 9-7 T Sprake 7
2 00-0 CHEROKEE BAND 20 B Hills 9-4 M Hills 12
3 00-6 U K MAGIC 46 J Banks 9-0 M Rimmer 8
4 60-0 SUMBAWA 25 D Haydn Jones 8-13 S Sanders 13
5 6-30 DESERT SPA 13 P Harris 8-13 J Reid 1
6 40-5 PEACEFUL SARAH 25 B Hanbury 8-12 W Ryan 8
7 4050 BALACLAVA 18 A McNae 8-11 D Sweeney (3) 5
8 0-14 ELBA MAGIC 12 (BF) C Dwyer 8-11 F Lynch 4
9 0-50 PERSIAN SABRE 19 V Soane 8-10 Paul Eddery 11
10 080- DARA KAY 313 D Cosgrove 7-10 N Adams 10
11 6-40 OMAR'S ODYSSEY 84 (V) P Mitchell 7-10 P Doe (5) 9
12 00-0 RED BROOK LAD 23 S Dow 7-10 Declan O'Shea 2
13 3600 RED RISK 52 P Harris 7-10 N Carlisle 14
14 0606 SAMMY'S SHUFFLE 84 (B) R Flower 7-10 Martin Dwyer 3
4-1 Elba Magic, 5-1 Caledonian Express, Desert Spa, 11-2 Cherokee Band, 8-1 Peaceful Sarah, 10-1 U K Magic, Balaclava, 12-1 others.

8.40 HALL LIMITED STAKES (AW: £2,899: 1m 2f) (8)
1 1104 KI CHI SAGA 10 (B,CD) G L Moore 6-9-13 W Ryan 8
2 2114 RASPBERRY SAUCE 15 (CD,S) C Cyzer 4-9-8 J Weaver 2
3 -300 BEHIND THE SCENES 10 (S) C Cyzer 4-9-7 M Hills 5
4 00-2 DOUBLE RUSH 10 (CD,F,S) T Mills 6-9-7 R Hills 1
5 40-3 TRIBAL PEACE 10 (CD,F,S) B Gubby 6-9-7 N Pollard (7) 4
6 310- FERN'S GOVERNOR 242 (BF,D,F,S) J Bridger 6-9-4 P Doe (5) 7
7 3225 IMPERIAL PRINCE 12 (B) K McAuliffe 3-8-7 J Reid 3
8 -332 POLO VENTURE 10 S Woods 3-8-7 N Day 6
11-4 Polo Venture, 4-1 Raspberry Sauce, 9-2 Tribal Peace, 5-1 Double Rush, 8-1 Ki Chi Saga, Fern's Governor, 10-1 Imperial Prince, 16-1 Behind The Scenes.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: J Noseda, 4 winners from 5 runners, 80.0%; J Berry, 33 from 162, 20.4%; G McCourt, 3 from 16, 18.8%; B Hanbury, 9 from 51, 17.6%; R Charlton, 8 from 46, 17.4%; P Harris, 13 from 76, 17.1%.
JOCKEYS: N Pollard, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; J Weaver, 83 from 392, 21.2%; R Hills, 15 from 80, 18.8%; R Studholme, 7 from 39, 17.9%; W R Swinburn, 5 from 28, 17.9%; R Cochrane, 66 from 385, 17.1%.

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 2.15 Cee-N-K, Saguaro. HAYDOCK PARK: 2.30 Bodyguard, Jay Gee. HEXHAM: 3.40 Ham N'Eggs. KEMPTON PARK: 2.30 King Foley. 4.05 Life Of Riley. 5.10 Spanish Fern. LINGFIELD PARK: 6.10 General Monty. WARWICK: 8.55 Drift, May King Mayhem.

WARWICK

THUNDERER
6.25 Muara Bay. 6.55 Star Manager. 7.25 Chasetown Cailin. 7.55 Razor. 8.25 Patriot. 8.55 Torch Vert.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.25 LEAM HANDICAP (Amateurs: £2,443: 1m) (20 runners)
1 0-00 XYLEM 14 (D,F,G,S) J Gosden 7-11-7 G Ranson (3) 16
2 5/0- MUHTADI 12J (G) D Chapman 5-11-2 R Clark (7) 19
3 20/3 YOUNG MAZAAD 9 (F) D O'Brien 5-10-12 V Lukaniuk (5) 6
4 3300 POKER SCHOOL 18 (B,G) N Callaghan 4-10-12 J D Moore (5) 8
5 60-0 MINJARA 57 A P Jones 3-10-10 Mrs V. Yooed (7) 17
6 1061 ROMAN REEL 65 (D,F) G L Moore 7-10-8 Mrs J Moore 1
7 066 ELLOPASSOFF 9 J Bradley 6-10-7 Miss C Bryan (7) 12
8 360- DOUBLE MATT 287 (F) Mrs P Sly 6-10-6 S Strange (5) 15
9 50-0 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 56 (D,F,G) B Cambidge 10-10-5 Mrs H Noonan (5) 20
10 0210 SIS GARDEN 18 (D,F,S) J Cullinan 5-10-4 Miss Emma Garley (5) 5
11 2403 MUARA BAY 7 (D,G) G Lewis 4-10-2 K Goble (3) 7
12 026- BELLAS GATE BOY 262 (F) J Pearce 6-9-13 Mrs L Pearce 14
13 54-0 DIAMOND EYRE 12 J Bateit 4-9-13 G Thomas (7) 4
14 2000 ANCHOR VENTURE 7 (F) S Woods 5-9-12 Mrs L Woods (3) 18
15 5000 ROCKETTE 23 (D) R Jukes 3-9-10 Miss E M Jones (7) 3
16 00/0 SWEET TRENTINO 33 (D,G) M Tate 7-9-10 Miss E Folkes (7) 10
17 4000 KINGCHIP BOY 7 (D,F,G) M Ryan 9-9-9 S Lavallin (5) 2
18 000- LADY FELIX 196 S Mellor 3-9-9 Miss S Deburiatte (7) 11
19 00-2 FOREST ROBIN 82 Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-8 Miss E Ramsden 13
20 00-0 MONTONE 7 (V,CD,F,G,S) J Jenkins 8-9-7 Dr M Mannish (3) 9
6-1 Young Mazaad, 13-2 Roman Reel, 7-1 Forest Robin, 8-1 Xylem, Poker School, Sis Garden, Muara Bay, 10-1 others.

6.55 HBG CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP (£3,785: 1m 2f 169yd) (9)
1 0-50 STAR MANAGER 19 (G,S) P Cole 8-10-0 T Quinn 1
2 0-13 CARLYS QUEST 8 (V,BF,S) J Neville 4-9-7 S Drowne 6
3 00-4 DIMINUTIVE 12 (F) J Hills 5-9-7 M Henry 2
4 630- MONUMENT 215J (F) J King 6-8-12 R Havlin (3) 8
5 00-2 TALIB 19 Mrs J Cecil 4-8-12 Dane O'Neill 9
6 034- SERENDIPITY 7J (F) M Pipe 5-8-12 G Carter 4
7 3-00 BRAVE NOBLE 14 E Dunlop 3-8-12 S Whitworth 5
8 5600 MARDREW 36 John Berry 4-8-7 M Fenton 3
9 414- SCHNOZZLE 315 (BF,C,S) K Bridgwater 7-8-4 T Williams 7
7-2 Carlys Quest, 4-1 Star Manager, 9-2 Serendipity, 6-1 Diminutive, 8-1 Monument, Talib, 10-1 Mardrew, 12-1 others.

7.25 SSAFA CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,301: 1m 2f 169yd) (7)
1 0- SENOR HURST 305 Mrs P Sly 8-6 A Culhane 4
2 5-50 CHASETOWN CAILIN 18 R Hollinshead 8-4 A McCarthy (3) 2
3 -000 WEDDING BAND 9 (B) D Elsworth 8-4 T Quinn 6
4 0 MISS MAGNUM 9 J Neville 8-2 S Drowne 7
5 00-0 BELLE DE MONTFORT 5 J Spearing 8-1 J F Egan 1
6 0-00 CARLASANTA 12 A Newcombe 8-1 A Mackay 5
7 0-44 SILENT PRIDE 14 M Usher 8-1 J Fowle (7) 3
5-4 Silent Pride, 7-2 Wedding Band, 4-1 Chasetown Cailin, 10-1 Carlasanta, 12-1 Miss Magnum, Belle De Montfort, 20-1 Senor Hurst.

7.55 ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE MAIDEN STAKES (£3,818: 7f) (12)
1 00 WELSH WARRIOR 8 J Bradley 5-9-10 S Drowne 10
2 00- MARISA'S PET 152 T Powell 4-9-5 P Fessey (3) 3
3 0 PRINCESS EILEEN 14 D O'Brien 4-9-5 G Carter 2
4 0-0 ROCK RIVER 9 D O'Brien 4-9-5 R French 5
5 -000 WHISPER LOW 92 R Hollinshead 4-9-5 A McCarthy (3) 6
6 6-0 DARE 20 E L James 3-8-13 J Quinn 12
7 0- FREDDIE MAC 235 G Bravery 3-8-13 S Whitworth 8
8 0- RAZOR 235 S C Williams 3-8-13 Dane O'Neill 9
9 4-3 SHAJI 15 C Benstead 3-8-13 T Williams 4
10 22 ALOHA DANCER 17 B Hills 3-8-8 D Holland 7
11 55- MISS MONEY SPIDER 194 N Callaghan 3-8-8 A Mackay 11
12 33-2 SUMMER DEAL 23 P Cole 3-8-8 T Quinn 1
11-10 Aloha Dancer, 9-2 Shaji, 11-2 Summer Deal, 8-1 Razor, Miss Money Spider, 20-1 Freddie Mac, 25-1 Rock River, 33-1 others.

8.25 BBT FINANCIAL SERVICES NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,951: 5f) (9)
1 0 CARTMEL PARK 21 J Berry 8-12 G Carter 4
2 COSMO JACK B Meehan 8-12 J F Egan 5
3 OUR BANDBOX S Mellor 8-12 J Quinn 1
4 PARADISE LANE B Millman 8-12 M Fenton 3
5 2 PATRIOT 25 B Smart 8-12 J Stack 7
6 42 PISCES LAD 13 S Dow 8-12 T Quinn 8
7 00 ALRIGHT POPS 6 R Dickin 8-7 P Mundy (7) 2
8 JAZZNIC P Makin 8-7 D Holland 6
9 5 SECRET HAVEN 52 (BF) B Meehan 8-7 M Tebbutt 9
5-2 Patriot, 3-1 Pisces Lad, 7-2 Cartmel Park, 8-1 Cosmo Jack, Secret Haven, 10-1 Jazznic, 16-1 Paradise Lane, 20-1 others.

8.55 QUILTER & CO HANDICAP (£3,261: 1m 6f 194yd) (10)
1 /3-4 TORCH VERT 13 (V,F,G) M Pipe 6-9-11 T Quinn 5
2 50-2 CHABROL 14J (F) John Berry 5-9-5 J Quinn 3
3 03-0 DRIFT 14J (B) D Cantillon 4-9-1 G Carter 6
4 0-25 LIMELIGHT 5 P Murphy 4-8-12 S Drowne 10
5 -000 CLASSIC DAME 8 Miss A Stokell 5-8-7 P Fessey (3) 7
6 00-0 BEAUCHAMP LION 25 G A Butler 4-8-6 J F Egan 2
7 4-00 THE BLUES ACADEMY 13 M A Buckley 3-8-5 A Culhane 1
8 0/0/ BESCABY GIRL 1168J M Tate 7-8-2 M Fenton 4
9 630F MAY KING MAYHEM 25 (B,G) Mrs A King 5-8-0 T Williams 8
10 0021 AQUAVITA 10 J S Moore 4-7-12 A McCarthy (3) 9
9-4 Torch Vert, 3-1 Chabrol, 5-1 Aquavita, 7-1 Limelight, 10-1 May King Mayhem, 14-1 Drift, Beauchamp Lion, The Blues Academy, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: S Woods, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; M Pipe, 9 from 35, 25.7%; J Hills, 6 from 24, 25.0%; J Pearce, 7 from 30, 23.3%; S C Williams, 3 from 15, 20.0%; P Makin, 6 from 33, 18.2%.
JOCKEYS: T Quinn, 11 winners from 79 rides, 13.9%; G Carter, 9 from 72, 12.5%; R Havlin, 5 from 45, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

McCabe banned

PAT McCABE, the apprentice jockey, received a five-day ban from the Haydock stewards yesterday after being found guilty of irresponsible riding on Silk St John, who was first past the post in the 49's Handicap. His suspension runs from June 1-6.

It appeared inevitable that Silk St John would lose the race in the stewards' room after barging his way through. However, the officials took until after the next race before disqualifying Silk St John to last for interfering with Master Beveled, who had in turn hampered Jedi Knight.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER
2.15 Ochos Rios
2.45 Bertolini
3.15 Kira
3.45 Soviet Bureau
4.20 Persiano
4.50 Dukhan
5.20 Dil

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD
103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88
Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 FURNITURE FACTOR NORTHERN RACING COLLEGE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,547: 7f) (22 runners)
1 (4) 10050-0 SANDBAGGEDAGAIN 7 (S) (Mrs C Hartery) M W Easterby 4-9-13 S Finnamore (5) 81
2 (2) 08-2000 CEE-N-K 14 (V,D,F) (North West RC) E Alston 4-9-9 J Wilkinson (3) 78
3 (13) 0206663 SWIFT 12 (BF,D,F,G) (General Sir Geoffrey Howlett) M Polglase 4-9-7 A Fox (7) 74
4 (23) 2-00 SAGUARO 31 (V) (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) J Gosden 4-9-5 R Havlin 80
5 (21) -660002 DOVEBRACE 5 (F,G) (D Jones) T Barron 5-9-5 Kimberley Hart 76
6 (19) 354-450 MYBOTYE 14 (D,F,G) (A Moroney) R Bastiman 5-9-3 P McCabe 80
7 (9) 12060-3 WINTER SCOUT 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Russell) R Fahey 10-9-0 D Egan (7) 78
8 (15) 300600- LOOK WHO'S CALLING 239 (S Edwards) B McMahon 5-9-0 S Righton (5) 65
9 (9) 14210-4 EURO SCEPTIC 14 (B,D,F,G) (C Stevens) T Easterby 6-9-0 D Mernagh (5) 74
10 (22) 0305-42 AL REET 12 (CD,S) (M Kilner) S Bowring 7-8-9 C Teague 80
11 (16) 60050-2 FLYING PENNANT 18 (V,D,F) (E Hayward) J Bradley 5-8-9 D Williams (5) 73
12 (18) 62363-0 CELANDINE 25 (F) (Dr J Hollowood) A Turnell 5-8-8 A Daly 70
13 (17) 20-0000 HI MUJTAHID 8 (D,F) (W Emson) S Kettlewell 4-8-6 P Fredericks (5) 81
14 (14) 6000-60 PANTHER 21 (F,G,S) (Treble Chance Partnership) J Eyre 8-8-6 S Buckley (5) 66
15 (11) 04326-6 DAINTREE 25 (V) (G Amy) H Collingridge 4-8-6 Aimee Cook 57
16 (12) 20112-6 CHURCHILL'S SHADOW 137 (BF,D) (R Gray) B Pearce 4-8-4 P Doe (3) 54
17 (1) 3152110 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 5 (V,D) (J Abbey) P Evans 4-8-3 A McCarthy 65
18 (6) 00000-0 OCHOS RIOS 19 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Young) B Rothwell 7-8-2 Iona Wands 70
19 (5) /000-65 TOM MORGAN 17 (D,F,G,S) (M White) P Walwyn 7-8-1 Darren Moffatt 76
20 (7) 300000- ONLY JOSH 327 (Mrs A Mallinson) J Glover 4-7-12 C Cogan (5) 65
21 (3) 044-630 GABLESEA 113 (D) (Chimes, Winn & Wilcom) B Baugh 4-7-12 R Brisland (5) 65
22 (10) 550-040 HANBY 12 (P Marron) J Goldie 6-7-10 K Sked (3) 65
Long handicap: Hanby 7-9
BETTING: 7-1 Dovebrace, 8-1 Winter Scout, Al Reet, 10-1 Flying Pennant, Italian Symphony, 12-1 Swift, Saguaro, Mybotye, Euro Sceptic, 14-1 others.
1997: ALLINSON'S MATE 9-9-4 Kimberley Hart (10-1) T Barron 15 ran

2.45 EBF ZETLAND MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,494: 6f) (14 runners)
1 (14) BERTOLINI (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 G Hind —
2 (2) BE THE CHIEF (Mrs S Merrydew) T Mills 9-0 A Mackay —
3 (7) 4 CHALCEDONY 15 (J Baggott) T Barron 9-0 D Harrison 68
4 (11) 6 DURHAM DANDY 19 (C Stevens) T Easterby 9-0 J Weaver 75
5 (5) EDMO HEIGHTS (Edmolift UK Ltd) T Easterby 9-0 T Williams —
6 (13) JACKINTHEBOX (P Savill) N Tinkler 9-0 Kim Tinkler —
7 (10) 0 KEY TO DOOKS 21 (BF) (R Fabrizius) J Berry 9-0 S Maloney 58
8 (12) PERCHANCER (N Greening) P Haslam 9-0 C Lowther —
9 (6) RAYWARE LAD (Rayton Racing) D Shaw 9-0 J Fanning —
10 (4) 5 TUULI 13 (Mrs H Carr) B Rothwell 9-0 D Pears 65
11 (1) ULTRA NEAT (J Pugh) P Evans 9-0 A McCarthy (3) —
12 (8) MEGS PEARL (J Pugh) P Evans 8-9 J F Egan —
13 (3) 0 PRINCESS LATIFA 6 (J Lazzari) B Meehan 8-9 G Duffield —
14 (9) 40 PRINCIPAL DANCER 19 (M O'Horan) J Glover 8-9 S D Williams 65
BETTING: 9-4 Bertolini, 8-1 Chalcedony, 10-1 Edmo Heights, Tuuli, Ultra Neat, Principal Dancer, 12-1 Be The Chief, Durham Dandy, Key To Dooks, 14-1 others.
1997: DESERT PRINCE 9-0 K Darley (2-5 fav) D Loder 13 ran

3.15 MERLIN LAND ROVER LIMITED STAKES C4 (£5,208: 6f) (10 runners)
1 (7) 006-130 DAAWE 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Malinson) J Glover 7-9-5 S D Williams 94
2 (1) 0000-01 KIRA 8 (CD,F,G) (J Wilson) J Eyre 8-9-2 R Lappin 102
3 (8) 0020-06 SEA-DEER 12 (BF,D,F,G,S) (M Foulger) C Dwyer 9-9-2 D O'Donohoe 97
4 (6) 605-330 THAT MAN AGAIN 19 (F,G) (J & R Duffy) S C Williams 6-9-2 D Williams (7) 87
5 (2) 030-032 TILER 7 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 6-9-2 J Weaver 101
6 (5) 30-511 BODFARI PRIDE 18 (G,S) (Bodfari Stud Ltd) A Bailey 3-8-13 D Wright 97
7 (3) 1 TALAVERA 13 (G) (C & A Deuters) J Berry 3-8-10 C Lowther 89
8 (10) 5061-20 GIFT OF GOLD 8 (S) (Classic Gold) A Kelleway 3-8-7 A Mackay 90
9 (4) 6450-05 VICE PRESIDENTIAL 20 (S) (P Savill) T Etherington 3-8-7 D Harrison 97
10 (9) 304-500 DEMOLITION JO 17 (V,D,F,S) (J Pugh) P Evans 3-8-4 J F Egan 87
BETTING: 3-1 Bodfari Pride, 7-2 Tiler, 4-1 Kira, 8-1 Talavera, Gift Of Gold, 10-1 Daawe, 12-1 That Man Again, 14-1 others.
1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS
Daawe 6½l 12th of 18 to Mungo Park in handicap at Beverley (5f, good), previously 1¾l 3rd of 13 to Double Oscar in handicap at Wolverhampton (5f, Aw, fibresand) with Kira (1lb worse off) 12l 11th. Kira beat Storyteller ¾l in 11-runner handicap at Thirsk (5f, good). Sea-deer 8½l 6th of 7 to Ansellman in claiming stakes at Redcar (6f, good); previously 20l 28th of 29 to Sheltering Sky in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good). That Man Again 15l last of 17 to Gay Breeze in handicap at Doncaster (6f, good to firm), previously 3½l 3rd of 8 to Double-O in handicap at Wolverhampton (5f, Aw, fibresand). Tiler 2l 2nd of 11 to Benzoe in handicap at Thirsk (6f, good to firm), previously ¾l 3rd of 12 to Swino in handicap at Haydock (6f, good to soft). Bodfari Pride beat Gift Of Gold (8lb better off) neck in 13-runner 3yo handicap at Chester (7f 122yd, good) with Demolition Jo (16lb better off) 8½l 10th. Talavera beat Faute de Mieux ½l in 16-runner 3yo maiden stakes at Beverley (5f, good). Gift Of Gold 14l 13th of 19 to Ho Leng in 3yo handicap at York (6f 214yd, good). Vice Presidential 2½l 5th of 10 to Foist in handicap at Hamilton (6f 5yd, good to soft), previously 42l 10th of 13 to Fizzed in 3yo handicap at Beverley (7f 100yd, soft). Demolition Jo 10l 8th of 16 to Blundell Lane in 3yo handicap at Chester (6f 18yd, good)

With plenty of pace in this race, KIRA can make the most of her finishing burst

3.45 ROSEHILL CONDITIONS STAKES C4 (3-Y-O: £10,234: 1m 2f 60yd) (5 runners)
1 (4) 1-1 ASAD 19 (C,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-5 D O'Donohoe 92
2 (2) 12-4 CHESTER HOUSE 42 (BF,F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0 A McGlone 108
3 (5) 1 DEEP DIVE 58 (C,S) (W Farish III) P Cole 9-0 A Culhane 97
4 (3) 1-40 SOVIET BUREAU 21 (F) (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 9-0 J Weaver 112
5 (1) 8241-4 TAVERNER SOCIETY 22 (F) (Pink & Blue Ribbon Synd) R Armstrong 9-0 R Price 99
BETTING: 5-2 Asad, 11-4 Chester House, 4-1 Taverner Society, 9-2 Deep Dive, Soviet Bureau.
1997: FALAK 9-2 K Fallon (11-2) W Hern 10 ran

FORM FOCUS
Asad beat Dower House 5l in 3-runner 3yo stakes at Doncaster (1m, good to firm), previously beat Great Dane 1½l in 8-runner 2yo maiden stakes at Yarmouth (7f 3yd, firm). Chester House 34l last of 4 to Krispy Knight in 3yo stakes (listed) at Kempton (1m, soft); previously 5l 2nd of 9 to Saratoga Springs in 2yo stakes at York (6f 214yd, good). Deep Dive beat Prolix ½l in 10-runner 3yo maiden stakes at Doncaster (1m, good to soft). Soviet Bureau 12l 12th of 18 to King Of Kings in group 1 stakes at Newmarket (1m, good to soft); previously 5½l 4th of 6 to Victory Note in 3yo group 3 stakes at Newbury (7f, heavy). Taverner Society 2½l 4th of 6 to Dr Fong in 3yo stakes (listed) at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to soft), previously beat Mantusis 2l in 17-runner 2yo maiden stakes at Kempton (1m, good to firm)

ASAD, unbeaten in two runs, can take this step up in class in his stride

4.20 NGONG RACECOURSE NAIROBI HANDICAP C4 (£8,616: 7f) (8 runners)
1 (1) 00100-0 CAVIAR ROYALE 9 (F) (M Burke's 5th Family S'ment) M W Easterby 4-9-12 G Parkin 100
2 (3) /200-08 YEAST 7 (D,F,S) (B Haggas) W Haggas 6-9-10 G Duffield 100
3 (6) -111113 NIGHT OF GLASS 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (K & B Silvester) J Eyre 5-9-6 A Culhane 102
4 (2) 104-000 ROYAL MARK 21 (D,F) (M Burke's 5th Family S'ment) T Easterby 5-9-1 J Weaver 98
5 (7) 044-411 PERSIANO 9 (D,F,G) (Miss A Church) J Fanshawe 3-8-12 D Harrison 110
6 (8) 3053-06 SAFIO 13 (CD,F,G) (Mrs M Clayton) A Bailey 5-8-11 A Mackay 106
7 (4) 15- BERGEN 246 (F) (J Hanson) J Hanson 3-8-6 E Johnson 81
8 (5) 002000- CAUTION 215 (D,F) (I & Mrs I Thomas) S Gollings 4-8-3 J F Egan 84
BETTING: 2-1 Night Of Glass, 3-1 Persiano, 6-1 Yeast, 7-1 Safio, 8-1 Caviar Royale, 12-1 Royal Mark, Bergen, Caution.
1997: WAYPOINT 4-8-5 T Sprake (4-1) R Charlton 8 ran

FORM FOCUS
Caviar Royale beaten a distance last of 13 to Prince Of Denial in handicap at York (1m 3f 85yd, good); previously 14l 13th of 18 to Queens Consul in handicap at Chester (7f 122yd, soft). Night Of Glass 1½l 3rd of 6 to Damaway in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with Yeast (4lb better off) 5½l last. Royal Mark 11l 11th of 16 to Night Of Glass (12lb worse off) in handicap at Thirsk (7f, good); previously 20l last of 18 to Mallia in handicap at Ripon (6f, heavy). Persiano beat Saleyana 4l in 20-runner handicap at Salisbury (6f 212yd, firm); previously beat Saligo 1½l in 19-runner 3yo handicap at Warwick (7f, good). Safio 6l 6th of 12 to Swino in handicap at Haydock (6f, good to soft), previously 37l 8th of 11 to Magic Mill in handicap at Newcastle (7f, soft). Bergen 9l 5th of 6 to Confirmation in 2yo stakes at Ayr (7f, good to soft), previously beat Panama House 1¼l in 17-runner 2yo maiden auction stakes at Pontefract (6f, good to firm). Caution 19l last of 17 to Ataan in handicap at Pontefract (5f, good to soft); previously 3¼l 7th of 14 to Al Large in 3yo handicap at Nottingham (6f 15yd, good to firm)

PERSIANO won impressively at Salisbury and can complete a treble

4.50 HARTINGTON HANDICAP (£4,308: 1m 4f) (9 runners)
1 (2) 31/14-0 LEADING SPIRIT 20 (D,F,G) (Indiana Racing Partners Two) C Wall 6-10-0 G Hind —
2 (7) 4/206-4 MADAME CHINNERY 15 (G) (Chinnery Partnership) J Eustace 4-9-5 J Tate 90
3 (3) 80/02-1 DOMAPPEL 16 (D,F,G,S) (M Banks) Mrs J Cecil 6-9-4 J Weaver 97
4 (6) 0200-05 RHEINBOLD 18 (D,S) (E Oliver) T Etherington 4-9-4 G Duffield 87
5 (9) -661303 DUKHAN 11 (D) (Ms J Fletcher) E Alston 4-9-2 J F Egan 90
6 (1) 01084-0 MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 13 (F,G) (E Incisa) E Incisa 7-9-1 Kim Tinkler 87
7 (5) 520-510 SHAFFISHAYES 26 (D,F,G,S) (P D-Brown) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-13 A Culhane 80
8 (4) 5-43 EMERALD HEIGHTS 21 (Arlington Bloodstock) J Fanshawe 3-8-5 D Harrison 90
9 (8) -002333 GOLDEN ACE 23 (BF,G,S) (G Linder) R Spicer 5-7-10 N Kennedy 90
BETTING: 3-1 Domappel, 9-2 Dukhan, 6-1 Golden Ace, 7-1 Madame Chinnery, Rheinbold, 8-1 McGillycuddy Reeks, Emerald Heights, 10-1 others.
1997: VERIDIAN 4-9-0 K Fallon (8-1) P Harris 7 ran

5.20 RIFLE BUTTS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,132: 5f) (10 runners)
1 (10) 03-3636 ALLMAITES 13 (H S L Ltd) D Nicholls 9-0 F Norton 80
2 (2) 0 CLOHAMON 13 (S Kettlewell) S Kettlewell 9-0 P Fredericks (7) 65
3 (1) 264-304 DIL 13 (BF) (A Ali) B Hanbury 9-0 G Hind 97
4 (5) 00 FLAK JACKET 15 (Kennet Valley Thoroughbred II) B Meehan 9-0 G Duffield 78
5 (8) 054000- SOMOSIERRA 258 (C & A Deuters) J Berry 9-0 C Lowther 58
6 (4) 0-604 THE WOODCOCK 15 (Mrs J Woodhouse) J Hanson 9-0 E Johnson 80
7 (3) 45320-0 DEKELSMARY 13 (D Mossop) J Balding 8-9 J Edmunds 54
8 (6) 0 HALSE COPSE 22 (Grafton Farmers) J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-9 R Perham —
9 (9) 0-0 PRIMA FACIE 13 (Cheveley Park Stud) J Fanshawe 8-9 D Harrison —
10 (7) 04 SHARP HINT 32 (Sir Thomas Pilkington) J Dunlop 8-9 J Weaver 68+
BETTING: 7-2 Dil, 4-1 The Woodcock, 5-1 Sharp Hint, 6-1 Allmaites, 13-2 Flak Jacket, 10-1 Clohamon, Somosierra, 12-1 others.
1997: ALAMODE 8-9 T Sprake (8-1) J G Smyth-Osbourne 8 ran

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TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	11	35	31.4	R Price	4	21	19.0
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H Cecil	19	82	23.2	A Mackay	7	52	13.5
J Gosden	26	129	20.2	G Hind	9	70	12.9
P Cole	11	62	17.7	C Lowther	5	43	11.6
J Dunlop	23	131	17.6	C Teague	3	26	11.5

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Haydock Park
Going: good (good to firm in places)

2.00 (5f) 1, CHEYENNE GOLD (Pat Eddery, 6-1); 2, Courtesan (R French, 15-2); 3, Formidable Star (S Sanders, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 5 jt-fav Done And Dusted, Rich Dominion, 15-2 Lucy Manella, 10 Blue Line Angel, 10 Darras Sky (6th), 10 Riddle, 14 Indecision (5th), 16 Call Me Lucky, 16 Kurelang, 33 Doctor Kool (4th), 33 Ferret Eddie, 33 Nathan's Hero, 33 Netherhall, 33 Sugar Cube Treat, 50 Time In Motion. 18 ran. 5l, 3l, 1½l, 1l, hd. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £6.00; £2.30, £2.90, £3.50. DF: £60.70. Trio: £118.30. CSF: £52.19.

2.30 (6f) 1, BREAKIN EVEN (S Buckley, 33-1); 2, Junior Muffin (P Bradley, 13-2); 3, Ready Fontaine (J Fowle, 7-1); 4, Piccolo Cativo (Angela Hartley, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 3 fav Wait'n'see, 7 Erro Codigo, Wishbone Alley, 10 Durham Flyer, 12 Sing For Me (5th), 14 Super Snip, 16 Penny Whistle, 25 Dryad, Final Claim, Pleasure, Ra Ra Rasputin, Starliner (6th), 33 Lawless Bridget, Pabella Bluebird, 50 French Pride, Reacl. 20 ran. 1½l, 1½l, 3l, ½l, nk. J Eyre at Thirsk. Tote: £88.30; £8.40, £1.60, £1.70, £3.90. DF: £273.40. CSF: £226.72. Tricast: £1,620.81. Trio: £708.10 (part won; pool of £498.72 carried forward to 3.00 at Haydock Park today).

3.00 (1m 30yd) 1, YOUNG PRECEDENT (D Holland, 9-1); 2, Yalta (Pat Eddery, 11-1); 3, Jedi Knight (T Lucas, 7-1); 4, Band On The Run (L Newton, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6 fav Pride Of Pendle, 9 Moving Arrow, 10 Bollin Terry, Bowcliffe (5th), Queens Consul, 12 Silk St John, 14 Artful Dane, 16 Grand Musica, Weetman's Weigh, 20 Master Beveled, Somerton Boy, 25 Rebel County, 33 Jay-Owe-Two. 17 ran. Nk, ¾l, 1l, ¾l, 2½l. P Harris at Berkhamsted. Tote: £11.30; £1.90, £2.90, £2.20, £4.40. DF: £45.10. Trio: £194.50. CSF: £96.48. Tricast: £712.15. Silk St John finished first, but after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified and placed last.

3.30 (1m 6f) 1, BAFFIN BAY (W Ryan, 4-6 fav); 2, Bombastic (D Holland, 13-8); 3, All Made Up (M Fenton, 15-2). 3 ran. 3½l, dist. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £1.60. DF: £1.20. CSF: £1.94.

4.00 (5f) 1, FIVE WAYS FLYER (J F Egan, 3-1); 2, Claranna (R Winston, 16-1); 3, My Mother's Dream (Dean McKeown, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6-5 fav Mammas F-C (6th), 4 Bodfari Anna (4th), 8 Bold Felicter, 20 Bodfari Signet (5th). 7 ran. Nk, 2½l, 1¼l, 2½l, 1¼l. P Evans at Welshpool. Tote: £4.20; £2.00, £4.70. DF: £39.40. CSF: £44.61.

4.30 (1m 3f 200yd) 1, STAR CRYSTAL (W Ryan, 6-1); 2, Shimeal (D O'Donohoe, 4-5 fav); 3, Echelle Musicale (J Reid, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Peridot (4th), 16 Alya (5th). 5 ran. 1l, 4l, 15l, 10l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £6.30; £2.40, £1.10. DF: £4.70. CSF: £11.09.

5.00 (1m 30yd) 1, GREAT DANE (W Ryan, 4-7 fav); 2, West-A-Minute (D Holland, 4-1); 3, Vagabond Chanteuse (Pat Eddery, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Mazboon (4th), 50 Silver Prey (5th), 100 Bend Wavy (6th). 6 ran. 13l, 2l, 2½l, 1l, 24l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £2.80. DF: £2.90. CSF: £3.30.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £4,244.60 carried forward to Haydock Park today).
Placepot: £983.20.
Quadpot: £128.60.

Nottingham
Going: firm, good to firm in places

2.20 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, HAROLDON (T Sprake, 4-1 fav); 2, Action Jackson (Declan O'Shea, 8-1); 3, Ron's Round (R Cochrane, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Daleriver, 12 Gliding Dancer (5th), Smart Guest, 14 Lady Eil, 16 Macari, Petuntse (6th), 20 Beauchamp Knight, Don't Worry Mike, Tul, 50 Irish Kinsman, Jingoist (4th), Nicker. 15 ran. NR: Up The Wall. Hd, 2l, ¾l, ½l, sh hd. B Palling at Cowbridge. Tote: £2.80; £1.70, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £24.40. Trio: £11.50. CSF: £23.42. Tricast: £113.24.

2.50 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, HAYDN JAMES (A Culhane, 7-1); 2, Rear Window (T Quinn, 11-4 fav); 3, Mazilla (T Sprake, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Classic Find (4th), 13-2 Hawksbill Henry (6th), 10 Golden Lyric, Missile Toe (5th), 12 Pay Homage, 20 Chili Boucher, Fabulous Mtoto, 40 Isit Izzy, Sooty Tern, Thoughtful Kate, 50 Top Shell. 14 ran. Hd, 1¾l, 1¾l, 1¼l, ½l. P Harris at Berkhamsted. Tote: £8.40; £2.10, £1.40, £3.20. DF: £13.30. Trio: £94.70. CSF: £23.92. Tricast: £170.23.

3.20 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, HIGH TENSION (T Quinn, 6-4 fav); 2, Katie's Cracker (F Norton, 13-2); 3, Piccadilly (A Culhane, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Legend Of Love (4th), 5 Touchez Du Bois (6th), 33 Orsino (5th). 6 ran. 3l, 1¼l, ½l, ½l, 4l. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.90. DF: £3.30. CSF: £11.27.

3.50 (6f 15yd) 1, UNICAMP (M Hills, 4-1); 2, Spendthepro-Ede's (T Sprake, 5-1); 3, Ashover Amber (J Carroll, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 3-2 Roemoor Girl (5th), 11-2 Enthaisingh (6th), 9 Lady Jane (4th), 40 Bold Conqueror. 7 ran. 2½l, nk, 3½l, ¾l, nk. E Dunlop at Newmarket. Tote: £5.40; £2.70, £3.00. DF: £26.60. CSF: £23.24.

4.20 (6f 15yd) 1, MADAME JONES (J Stack, 11-2); 2, Ocker (J Weaver, 14-1); 3, Smokey From Caplaw (W Supple, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 5 Skyers Flyer, 13-2 Court Express (4th), 7 Superbit, 10 Legal Lark, 12 Double March, 16 Leotric (5th), 33 Napoleon Star, 40 Charlie's Gold, 50 La Volta, Las Vistas (6th), Petraco. 14 ran. 1¾l, 2l, hd, hd, 1¼l. M Buckley. Tote: £8.60; £1.90, £6.00, £1.80. DF: £25.30. Trio: £36.50. CSF: £76.39.

4.50 (1m 54yd) 1, LUCKY ARCHER (R Thomas, 20-1); 2, Calamander (M Mathers, 9-1); 3, Desert Cat (J Gotobed, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Lindesberg, 7 Dancing Dervish, Goldrune, 9 Tilaal (4th), 10 Azulino, Loubin Lane, Manikato, Mukhlles, 12 Runaround, 20 Ella Falls (5th), Turn To Stone (6th), 40 Not Quite Grey. 15 ran. NR: Academy, Danzas, Finarts Bay. 2l, 1¼l, hd, 1¾l, 1¼l. J Bradley at Chepstow. Tote: £23.50; £7.10, £5.20, £4.30. DF: £100.90. CSF: £178.57. Tricast: £1,483.13. Trio: £169.30 (part won; pool of £190.78 carried forward to 3.00 at Haydock Park today).

Placepot: £1,197.90.
Quadpot: £131.70.

Brighton
Going: firm

2.10 (1m 3f 196yd) 1, Random Kindness (A McGlone, 9-4); 2, My Learned Friend (11-8 fav); 3, Opera Buff (3-1). 4 ran. ½l, 1¼l. R Ingram. Tote: £3.10. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.46.

2.40 (5f 213yd) 1, La Tavernetta (M Tebbutt, 11-10 fav); 2, Sampower Star (8-1); 3, Greyvee (11-2). 8 ran. Sh hd, 7l. B Meehan. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.60, £1.80. DF: £11.20. CSF: £10.79.

3.10 (1m 3f 196yd) 1, Grimshaw (A McGlone, 9-4 fav); 2, Alabed (5-2); 3, Act Defiant (4-1). 9 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. H Cecil. Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £3.40. Trio: £5.70. CSF: £7.50.

3.40 (7f 214yd) 1, Miskin Heights (N Callan, 5-1); 2, Out Line (4-1 fav); 3, Inclination (7-1). 12 ran. NR: Cedar Girl. 1½l, sh hd. K Burke. Tote: £7.30; £2.90, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £13.00. Trio: £17.60. CSF: £22.11. Tricast: £126.66.

4.10 (5f 59yd) 1, I Cried For You (R Hughes, 7-4 fav); 2, Batchworth Belle (9-4); 3, Blarney Park (14-1). 9 ran. NR: Majalis. ¾l, ¾l. R Hannon. Tote: £2.30; £1.80, £1.40, £2.60. DF: £2.50. Trio: £16.40. CSF: £5.76. Tricast: £39.86.

4.40 (5f 213yd) 1, Step On Degas (D Sweeney, 20-1); 2, Anokato (12-1); 3, Cead Mile Failte (16-1); 4, Justinianus (7-1). Halmanerror 5-1 fav. 17 ran. Sh hd, ½l. Mrs A King. Tote: £28.60; £3.90, £3.80, £4.80, £1.70. DF: £97.10. Trio: not won (pool of £910.37 carried forward to 3.00 at Haydock Park today). CSF: £242.16. Tricast: £3,625.65.

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Quadpot: £15.00.

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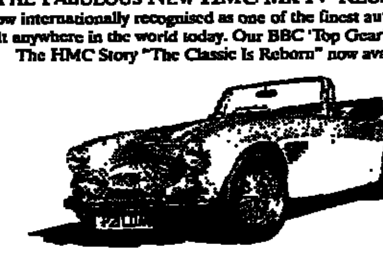
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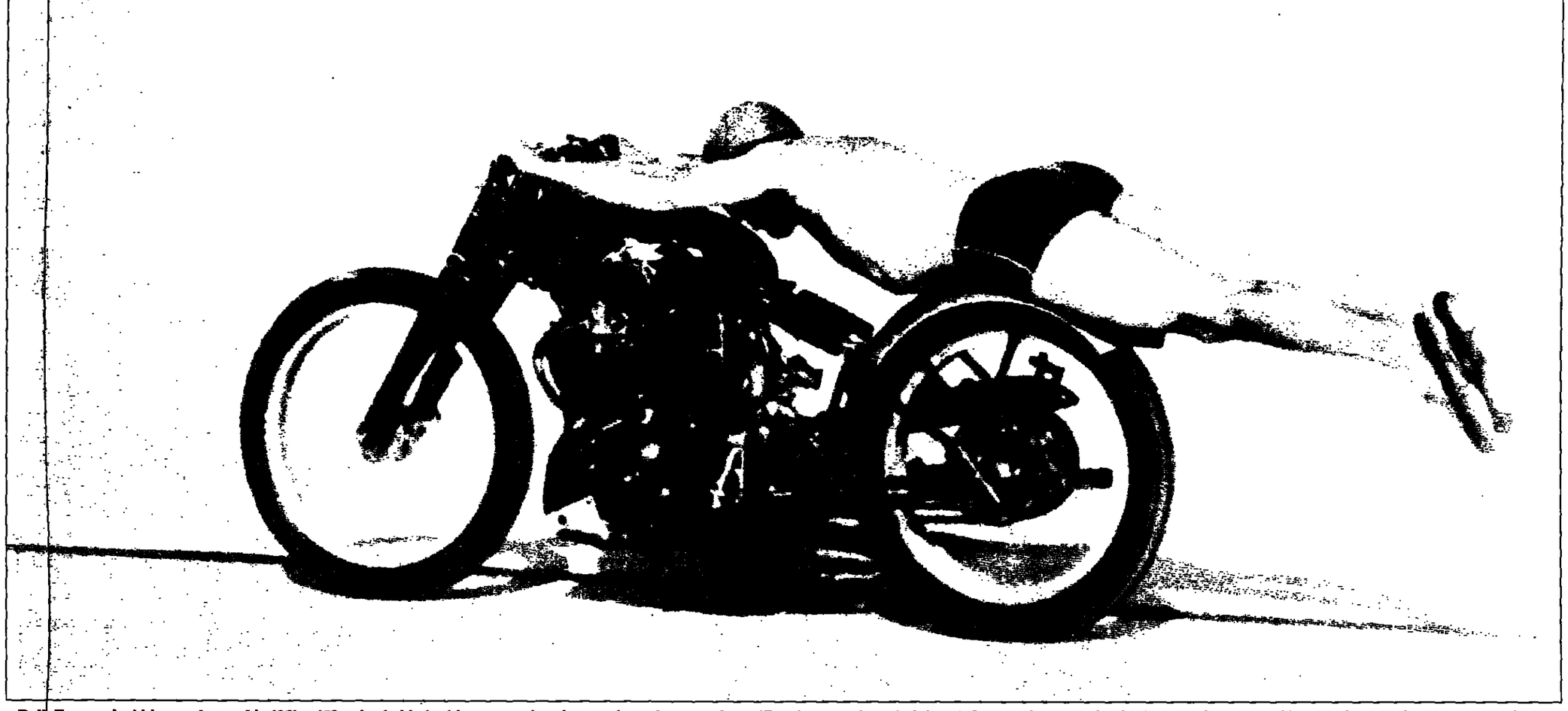
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Mad Rollie's naked lust for speed



Rollie Free pushed his speed record in 1951 to 152mph, clad in bathing cap, swimming trunks and canvas shoes. The photograph made it into *Life* magazine, ensuring his immortality and cocking another snook at Harley-Davidson

A legendary Vincent is set for its first UK appearance next month.

Prosper Keating on the life of the record-breaking showman who rode it

All the girls in the office love the photo: "He's our hero," they declared. "It's going up on the wall." That is quite an unusual reaction from the Louis Vuitton publicity machine fool young women to a faded old photograph of a small bald biker of advancing years. But Rollie Free was rather an unusual man.

When he blasted his British-built 1,000cc Vincent-HRD V-twin motorbike through a speed trap on the vast, shimmering expanse of the Bonneville salt flats in Utah at 150.3 mph, 50 years ago, to set a new American speed record, he wore only a blue bathing cap, swimming trunks and a pair of light canvas shoes.

On seeing the photograph of the near-naked speed freak stretched prone along the striped-down motorbike, his stomach resting on the rear mudguard, legs stretched to the rear, flashing past at 150mph, most people instantly conclude that Free was clearly dog-barkingly certifiable. And they might well be correct.

During the depression of the early 1930s, Free was a carnival stunt rider, riding Indian V-twins around a wall of death. It contained a bad-tempered lion whose mood was hardly improved by the incessant drone of the engine, rising and falling like a giant mosquito and the fact that whenever he got it together to take a swipe, his tormentor would already be on the other side of the wooden cylinder.

Free's Bonneville exploits so fired public imagination at the time that the famous photograph — actually taken in 1951 when he pushed his record to 152mph — even made it into *Life* magazine.

There was a certain personal satisfaction in shattering the 136mph record previous held by Harley-Davidson. Free had nursed an all-consuming grudge against Harley since a dealer had palmed him off with a duff race bike when he was a young hopeful in the early 1920s. Vowing vengeance, Free devoted himself with fanatical zeal throughout the 1920s and 1930s to smashing Harley's various speed records on machines supplied by Indian, its rival, and he even opened an Indian dealership in Indianapolis.

Too old to serve overseas, Free spent most of the Second World War stationed in Salt Lake City. His prewar record runs had been made on the damp sands of Daytona Beach, but when Free saw the hard, billiard-table-smooth salt flats of Bonneville, he knew he had found the perfect environment to trounce his old foe's 136mph record — if only he had the right machine. When news of Vincent-HRD's stunning new 120mph Black Shadow sports tourer reached the States from England in 1948, Free asked his sponsor John Edgar to acquire one.

It was a typically individualistic decision at a time when most American speed men were switching loyalty from Harley-Davidson and Indian to marques like Triumph, whose 500cc and 650cc twins offered far more scope for performance tuning. A Vincent HRD 1000 may be fast but it's as mean as a gypsy's horse in terms of handling at high speeds (nostalgia freaks who ride the restored examples in convoy along today's motorways at 69.9mph might disagree, of course) and the lighter, more manageable Triumph twins and BSA Gold Star singles were cheaper and more practical. There was also the question of spares. Small-volume companies like Vincent-HRD could be unreliable, whereas firms like Triumph had American subsidiaries on the East and West coasts.

> His wall of death act involved riding around an angry lion

Tested in the Isle of Man in May 1948, Vincent-HRD's Black Shadow hit 122mph, no mean achievement on the dodgy 72-octane petrol dictated by postwar rationing at a time when the average family car could just about wheeze up to 70mph.

But speed, as Philip Vincent liked to say, is expensive — and he was the founder of the firm producing the world's fastest standard motorcycle. For the £425 asking price of the Black Shadow in 1948, you could have had a sizeable country cottage... with an inside lavatory. Often referred to as the Black Lightning, Free's Bonneville sprinter was actually a modified Series-B Black Shadow, one of the mere 80 or so built before the improved Series-C range appeared in 1949. Free's modified Shadow certainly cost far more than the list price, while the production Black Lightning — introduced by Vincent-HRD in 1949 after Free's success and good for a genuine 140mph straight out of the crate — could easily top £600 with all the extras.

The 1000cc V-twins produced by Vincent-HRD in a small factory outside Stevenage in Hertfordshire were ahead of their time in many respects. They were designed by Philip Vincent — an Anglo-Argentinian Old Harrovian who was unable to ride motorbikes after crashing a prototype on the Great North Road in 1946 and losing his sense of balance — and Philip Irvine, the brusque Australian technical genius who was the only man to design both a world-championship-winning motorcycle and car.

Their machines incorporated features that the Japanese would later claim as their own, such as an engine that formed an integral part of the chassis, and cantilever rear suspension which was developed into the world's first true monoshock system in 1954.

The small firm spent much of its time a couple of steps ahead of the Official Receiver and was kept in business by a nudge-wink deal between Vincent's father and the Argentine government which ordered fleets of singularly unsuitable Vincent 1000s for its police and army. When Juan Perón fell out with the world in the late 40s, it dealt a mortal blow to Vincent, which went into receivership and ceased production in 1955.

Rollie Free continued on his personal mission to humiliate Harley Davidson, pushing his record to 160.78mph in 1953 before falling off during a run. Suffering somewhat from salt burn, he quit racing and grew old disgracefully like any self-respecting American of the old school, hard and fast with his fists but unswervingly polite to the ladies.

He died in 1980, but his record-grabbing Vincent-HRD survives. Louis Vuitton hopes to display it at its new Bond Street store during the week leading up to its annual concourse d'élégance event on June 6 at the Hurlingham Club in West London.

Today, Rollie Free might find his efforts severely hampered by those who disapprove of manly pursuits like speed, noise, danger, squandering fossil fuels, nudity and making people grin.

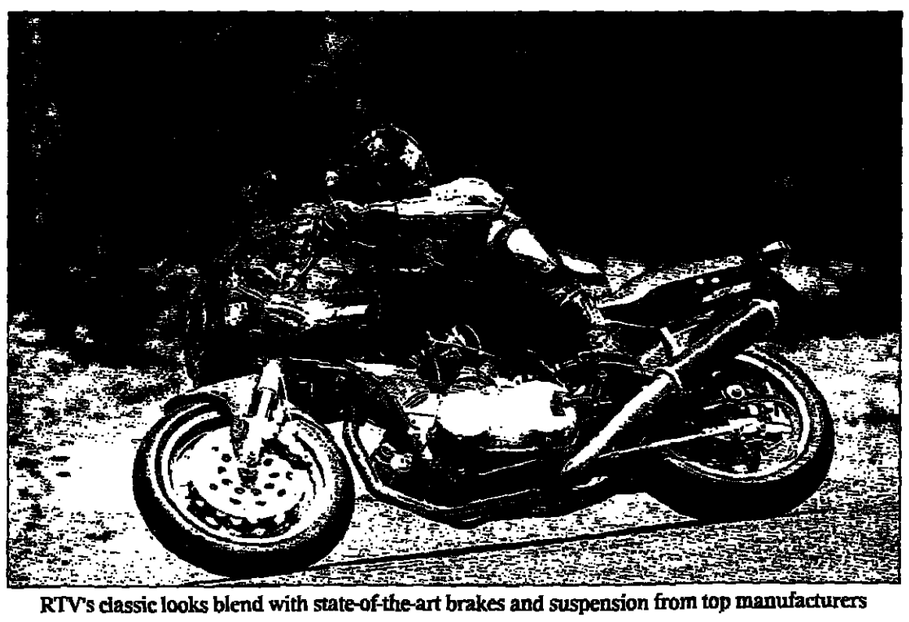
But the reaction of most people to that extraordinary photograph proves that we haven't lost the ability to recognise balls of steel.

Out with the old, in with the new: **Alan Cathcart** rides the reborn Vincent legend

Son of twin: it's the return of the Shadow



Beefed-up twin has electric start



RTV's classic looks blend with state-of-the-art brakes and suspension from top manufacturers

If you had to choose any motorcycle of the vintage era on which to base a modern-day sportsbike, it would be no contest: the Vincent Black Shadow was the benchmark superbike of the postwar era, the vintage equivalent of the 916 Ducati.

The Vincent was built in Britain, but as it was designed by an Australian, Phil Irving, it is appropriate that 43 years after the last Vincent rolled out of the Stevenage factory, an updated version of Irving's legendary V-twin engine should be developed in Australia to power a modern sportsbike.

It has been created by an ex-pat Pom, Ron Slender, the chairman of RTV, the company that is reviving the classic motor, with the help of engine-designer-cum-Vincent-guru, Terry Prince.

The first 12 RTV 1200 Black Widow sportbikes (RTV stands for Ron and Terry's Vincent) have already been produced in RTV's Brisbane factory and delivered to Australian customers, and now the born-again Vincent is on sale in Britain through Welsh-based importer Ron Kemp of RTV Europa. The cost will be around £20,000.

But RTV's aim wasn't to build a replica vintage Vincent, says Prince. "Our goal was to create a modern classic with the same presence and character as the original Vincent, but with modern practicality," he says. There were no shortcuts in designing the RTV Vincent — engine drawings had long disappeared so Prince had to start from scratch.

The main difference between the ancient and modern motors, apart from an increase in capacity to 1197cc, is the RTV's more robust engine design, which incorporates a Bosch electric starter and five-speed gearbox, neither of which was on the menu 40 years ago.

The 8.1 compression engine runs on unleaded fuel, while the bike's spine-frame chassis has a large diameter tubular steel backbone doubling as an oil tank for the dry-sump engine, which is underslung from it.

The monoshock rear suspension uses an Ohlins shock with Paioli upside-down forks and Brembo brakes and four-pot calipers. All this modern hardware is supplied by state-of-the-art manufacturers who are also used by superbike builders such as Italy's Bimota, yet powered by a modern version of a 40-year-old engine.

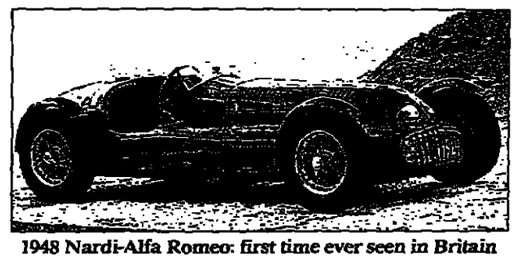
Riding the RTV is yesterday once more, but in a modern context — it is the two-wheeled equivalent of a Nineties revival of a Sixties hit record, though thankfully without an accompanying rave beat. There is no need to worry about coaxing the machine in to life via the kickstarter: thumb the ignition button and listen to the muted off-beat lilt of the 50-degree V-Twin echoing its ultra-distinctive tune through the exhaust.

The engine shares with Harley-Davidsons the sort of mechanical clatter characteristic of an air-cooled pushrod motor. It picks up revs in a fairly leisurely manner — but with enormous punch and highly torquey acceleration which, combined with well-spaced gear ratios, gives the impression of muscular urgency coupled with a sense of easy, assured power to its performance. This is a long-legged bike that feels it could be ridden hard all day.

It's hard not to admire what Slender and Prince have achieved in creating the RTV 1200. The Black Shadow is indeed a born-again Vincent, but it is also a practical modern classic without tears, and it is set to find a ready market among wealthy bikers who want history without the hysteria.

● *Ron Kemp, RTV Europa: Tel 01597 851115*

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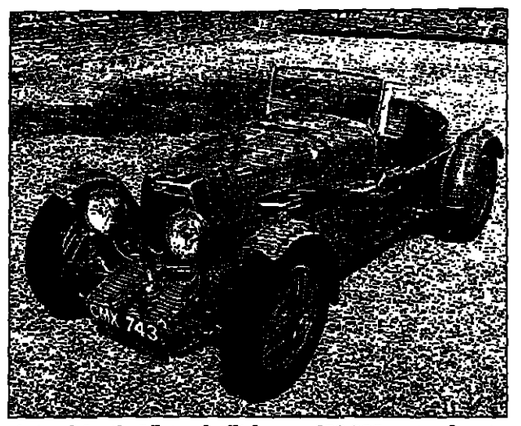


1948 Nardi-Alfa Romeo: first time ever seen in Britain

■ ROLLIE FREE'S Vincent is just one of the superb historic machines starring in next month's Louis Vuitton Classic show at London's Hurlingham Club on June 6, and this week Times readers have the chance to win one of 50 tickets for two to the exclusive invitation event.

Some of the UK's most rarely seen and most important vehicles will be competing for the Best of Show prize. This year the cars lined up on the club's lawn will include a 1935 Aston Martin Ulster — one of only 21 ever built, and recently restored meticulously from a crate of parts — and a specially designed 1948 Nardi-Alfa Romeo, a car never before seen in Britain.

To enter the ticket draw, send a stamped, addressed envelope with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Times Classic Ticket Offer, Louis Vuitton Press Office, 12 Clifford Street, London W1X 1RB. The first 50 drawn will win.



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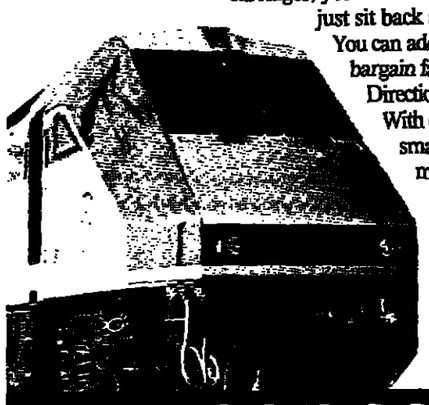
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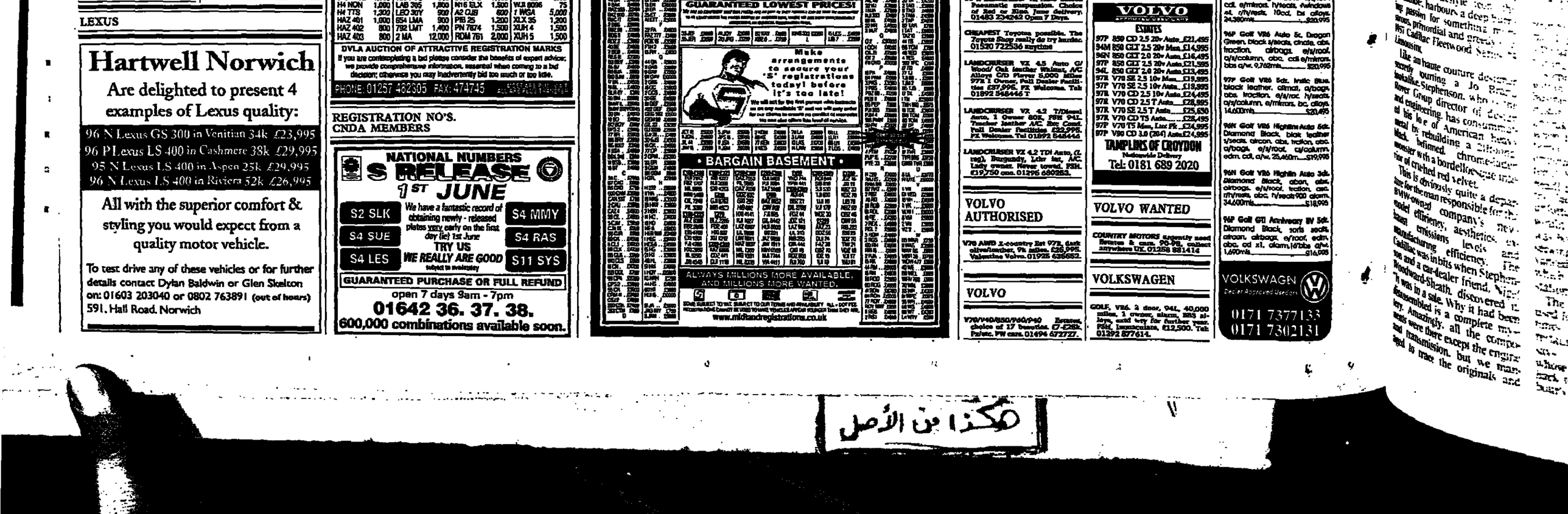
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Better than having bank holiday fun

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

Driven to Distraction's many and varied commercial activities have been curtailed somewhat by the outcry over arms to *Sierra Leone, most of which is* simply a fuss got up by the gutter press. Driven to Distraction Inc (DDI) has for many years exported car spares, known in the Sierra Leone's patois as howitzers, and we are confident that all nine government enquiries presently under way will find that we are completely and utterly innocent of all charges, give or take a misunderstanding.

Obviously no great multinational can let the grass grow under its feet so DDI has had to find ways to fill what our accountants call the "inward cashflows void" brought about by the irritating attentions of HM Customs and Excise (we are frankly surprised that Her Majesty lends her initials to this cowboy enterprise, but there you are).

Our New Projects and Future Resourcing division, a rather clever tax write-off based in our imposing and picturesque headquarters at Unit 67b, Mammon Drive, Leighton Buzzard Cyberpark, has worked night and day to a very specific brief: come up with something for the domestic market that won't make waves but will *make money.*

Thus it is with great pride that today we unveil, just in time for the May Bank Holiday with its attendant motorway chaos and vehicles heaving with hysterical children, a *new quiz to while away the hours* en route to beach, lake or national park. We believe this game, which is called How Much Further Is It? will sweep the country, and be the summer's most successful recreational innovation.

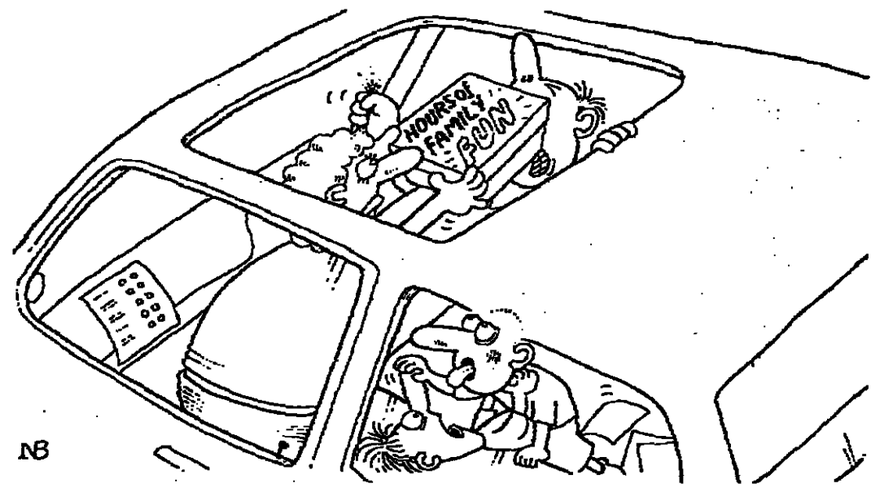
One of the many beauties of How Much Further Is It? is that there are no irritating dice to be lost down the backs of seats or batteries to be forgotten. The quiz uses a multiple-choice format, so that the only writing implement available inside the car, which is of course a partially crushed crayon, will be perfectly adequate for making the required ticks.

As a delicious sample of the joys in store for purchasers of How Much Further Is It? (£8.99 at all good accessory shops) here is question 5: You are the driver and you have chosen the route. After two hours you are three miles from your home. Your spouse begins a sentence, "Wouldn't it have been better if..." Do you reply: (a) "Wouldn't it *have been better if* you'd married that bloke/woman you were with the night we met?"; (b) point out that this route is empty at 3am, which is when you wanted to leave; (c) mention that the UN is still sending food aid to people who used your spouse's suggested route last year?

Please do not think that the folly of taking a particular route is the *only subject area on offer*, though in a recent survey this accounted for 42 per cent of all arguments during holiday journeys. Many of the questions concern the quality of the destination as compared with staying in one's own back garden (24 per cent), the availability at the chosen destination of activities for children to ridicule (22 per cent) and, oh yes, the best time to drive home (12 per cent).

Here is question 11: The best response to children who say that they would not be seen dead in a swimsuit without a Nike logo is to tell them: (a) that when you were a child you had to go swimming in a pair of your dad's old pyjamas; (b) swimming had not even been invented when you were young; (c) have they seen the news item about Nike signing up Des O'Connor to do television commercials?

The home-journey section is equally rich in classic situations fit to send even the most settled of families into a rage. For example, here is question 41: You have spent five days dodging showers, arriving at "quaint" restaurants two minutes after they stopped serving tea and two hours before they start serving dinner, your children have become so sullen that their bottom lips now cover their noses, you are bumper-to-bumper in a queue of vehicles making the return journey at night to avoid the traffic. Your spouse is most likely to say: (a) "I was surprised when you agreed to book up for the same week next year"; (b) "It's hard to believe that we'll miss the children when they start taking separate holidays"; (c) "No I didn't, *you* always put the suitcases in the boot"?



Oversized, overpowered, and over here

Heck, **Vaughan Freeman** finds Cadillac's UK Seville a costly slice of apple pie



Cadillac has cut the Seville down to European size, but it still has its Motown looks

SEVILLE STS

Engine: 4.6-litre 305bhp 32-valve V8 petrol.
Performance: 0-60mph, 6.8 secs; top speed, 150mph.
Economy: 13.7mpg urban, 27.2mpg extra urban, 19.9mpg overall.
Price: £41,000.

Like Coca-Cola and the Empire State Building the name Cadillac epitomises all that is American, redolent of chrome radiator grilles, pink fins, Elvis Presley, and conspicuous motoring consumption.

So successful has Cadillac been in America that it is almost 60 years since the company bothered making a right-hand-drive car to sell in markets outside its fortress home base. It is the world's largest single manufacturer of luxury cars, selling 150,000 annually in North America.

But now the Yanks are coming, in the shape of possibly the most famous Cadillac name of them all, the Seville, set to hit the UK in right-hand-drive form this month, as part of Cadillac's new strategy to build worldwide sales.

To cope with narrower British roads, smaller parking spaces and tighter corners, Cadillac, part of the General Motors/Vauxhall/Opel empire, has lopped around 5in off the car's bumpers, bringing the car's length down to under five metres, and tuned the car to European tastes.

Even so, the huge chromed wheels, exhaust and radiator grille, the slash of red stop lights the width of the boot, and the mass of electronic gimmicks on board, plus the 4.6-litre 32-valve V8 engine, do little to disguise the fact that the Seville is a true child of Motown.

Far from cloning a European luxury car rival, the Cadillac designers have unashamedly set out to bring a classic slice of flamboyant American automobilia to Europe, with some refinements. Suspension has been tightened for a harder, more sporty ride than that preferred in America; it is electronically controlled to keep the car level even under heavy acceleration and braking.

The Cadillac STS (Seville Touring Saloon) is the world's most powerful production car with front-wheel drive. Traction control is fitted in an effort to prevent front-wheel spin should the driver try to use too much of the engine's 305bhp.

To help the driver if conditions are wet or icy, there is also StabiliTrak, which senses when the car is skidding, and automatically brakes one of the front wheels to help bring the car under control.

Front seats feature a computer memory that weighs the driver or passenger when they get in, recognises their requirements, and resets the seat, steering wheel and even the favourite radio station when the engine is turned on.

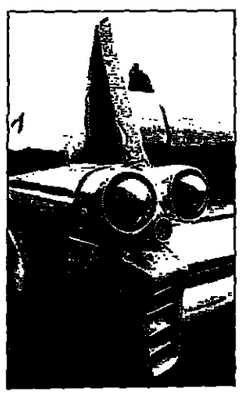
Toys abound in this machine: ten air-filled bladders are hidden in the front seats which continually adjust for maximum comfort, and there is even a tiny compass built into the rear-view mirror.

On the move, the car is big and heavy, but the faster you go the better it feels. It does not wallow like the huge American barges of yore. The steering wheel is too big, but the steering is precise and the ride comfortable, although pot holes and ridges in the road are picked up as thumps in the passenger compartment.

The V8 engine is hugely powerful and the car takes off if urged to do so. For lovers of the V8 sound, the Seville is a delight, even if the transmission is a little rough. As for safety, the Seville passed an unexpected crash test with flying colours when a British journalist in a Seville — not your correspondent — was involved in a crash with a Mercedes that destroyed both cars. Cadillac and Mercedes occupants escaped unscathed.

Seville buyers will have to be prepared to pay £41,000 for a car that in America sells for £29,000, which seems a lot to pay for having the steering wheel moved. Cadillac blames this on differences in taxation, with 10 per cent import duties and VAT.

Caddy's fat and fin years



■ THE FIRST Cadillac rolled out of Detroit in 1903, after company boss Henry Martin Leland had shown off his prototype only 12 months earlier.

Cadillac soon set a string of firsts. In 1912 came the first electric starters and illumination; in 1915 the first production cars with a V8 engine; *in 1930 the first production car* with a V16 engine, and in 1953 the first air conditioning, followed in 1954 by the first power steering.

On the way Cadillac styling became a US icon. Huge fins were first introduced on a Cadillac in 1948 by designer Harley Earl, boss of GM's Art and Color Section, who was inspired by fighter aircraft design. In 1958 Elvis Presley bought an outrageously finned Cadillac, by which time the fins and chrome were matched by eye-watering paint jobs.

If the current Seville's 4.6-litre engine sounds big, it pales beside the 8.2-litre behemoth that was installed in the Cadillac Fleetwood of 1971, which earned the dubious accolade as the world's largest production engine, putting out 400bhp.

The first Seville with front-wheel drive was launched in 1980, and since then the dimensions of Cadillacs have on the whole been shrinking to reflect concerns over fuel consumption, and now tastes abroad. The new Seville will be sold in 40 countries, including South Africa, Japan and China.

Company driver latest

■ AN INDUSTRIAL glue company has a driving force to be reckoned with, *writes Eve-Ann Prentice.* For three of its staff have all emerged victorious in the latest regional heat of the *Times*-Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition.

Keith Harryman, Roger Gulpin and Clive Flemington — who all work for National Starch — took first, second and third place in the morning session at the Coventry round of the contest which has tested hundreds of drivers and dented a few egos in the past six weeks.

Contestants take part in a series of trials on and off the road as well as tests on the Highway Code and emergency procedures. Winner of the afternoon round at Coventry was Ken Winstanley of P&C Casey, a construction company based in Rochdale, Lancashire.

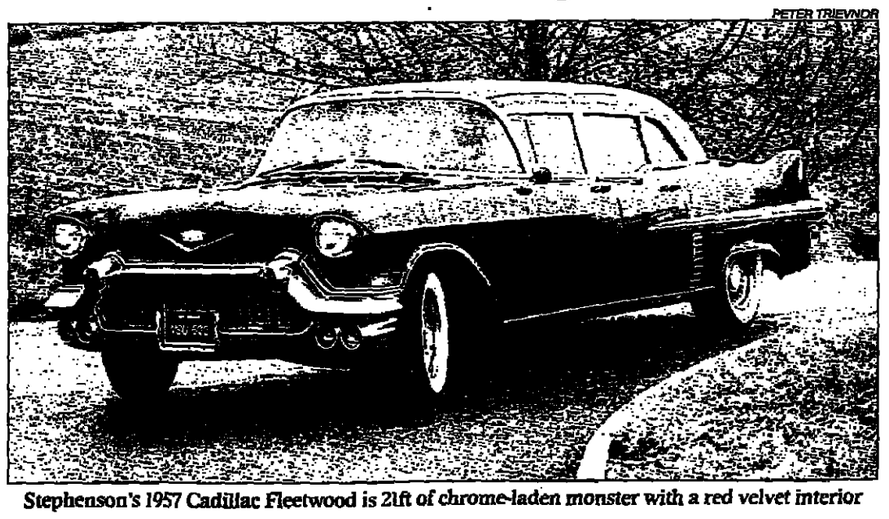
"Driver training is a major investment in our firm," said Mr Harryman, who goes on to compete in the finals at Silverstone on June 26 and a chance to win the overall title and a VIP trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix.

Instructors from Drive Tech, the driver training company, are judging the competition, and after four of the six regional heats they say it fast becomes apparent which entrants have undergone advanced tuition.

Rover boss exposed as heavy metal fan

Stuart Birch gets a big surprise in the Freelander designer's crowded garage

PETER TRIEVNOR



Stephenson's 1957 Cadillac Fleetwood is 21ft of chrome-laden monster with a red velvet interior

Should his bosses be told? Nick Stephenson, the man responsible for the design and engineering of Land Rover's latest Nineties-lifestyle icon, the Freelander, harbours a deep burning passion for something monstrous, primordial and greedy — a 1957 Cadillac Fleetwood Series 75 Limousine.

Like an haute couture designer secretly courting a Jo Brand lookalike, Stephenson, who is the Rover Group director of design and engineering, has consummated his love of American heavy metal by rebuilding a 21ft-long, black, befinned, chrome-laden monster with a bordelloesque interior of crushed red velvet.

This is obviously quite a departure for the man responsible for the BMW-owned company's new-model efficiency, aesthetics, exhaust emissions levels and manufacturing efficiency. The Cadillac was in bits when Stephenson and a car-dealer friend, Nigel Woodward-Sheath, discovered it. "It was in a sale. Why it had been disassembled is a complete mystery. Amazingly, all the components were there except the engine and transmission, but we managed to trace the originals and reunite them with the rest of the car. I paid relatively little for it although a lot of work went into putting it back together."

Stephenson is living proof that within even the most imaginative, businesslike and incisive modern motor-industry mind can lurk anorakish tendancies that emerge when favourite jalopies are mentioned: "Its equipment includes an original self-dipping headlight system," he explains in detail. "The headlights were supposed to dip in the face of oncoming traffic but unfortunately reflective road signs would also activate the system. It was hopeless. There is also a self-seeking valve radio — very advanced for its time. It has a selector which simply says, 'more stations'."

The 6¼-litre, 2½-ton Cadillac is used for fun outings: "We'll sometimes use it to go out to a restaurant. It's a real poserwagon," says 49-year-old Stephenson, whose love of American cars goes back to his childhood: "A neighbour's son returned from National Service in Germany driving an American Hudson Commodore. I knew then that when I grew up I must own an American car."

He has not owned a Commodore although there is a 1950s Dinky Toy version among the array of models that covers the shelves in his kitchen. Asked what car he would really like to own now, Stephenson answers without hesitation: "A 1959 Cadillac 62 Series Eldorado Biarritz Convertible — in pink."

It was the year when fins, which had been growing for a decade from mere humps, reached their apogee, and American cars took on a look that was a cross between a Dan Dare rocket and a piece of mobile architecture.

But he is also an ardent collector of unlikely vehicles. He has bought, enjoyed and sold more cars and oddball wheeled wonders than he can remember. Once he went to an auction to buy a gazebo and returned home with a Pig. "The gazebo was very nice but so was the Pig and at £600 the Pig won."

A real *four-trotter pig might* have been regarded as a useful investment but this one came with four-wheel drive and weighed in at 7.5 tons. It was a Humber armoured car, built in the 1950s for the British army — and its looks explain its nickname. "It did prove useful for shopping at Tesco," he says. "You can stuff a lot of those plastic bags into a Pig and you don't worry about people opening their car doors and damaging the bodywork."

The Pig is tucked away for the winter alongside a 1934 Morris 8 Tourer with a 5.7-litre Chevrolet engine. He built this with his brother Alex, the managing director of Rover Group's Powertrain Division. There is also a Rolls-Royce Silver Spur which "needed a bit of work".

Also at home sits a 1,000bhp projectile that rockets to 60mph in 1.5 seconds and on to 170mph in eight seconds. The dragster, with its ultra-lightweight glass-reinforced plastic bodywork, bears a passing resemblance to a 1988 Chevrolet Corvette. But the engine is almost nine litres, and to stop its pell-mell flight, the monster has giant disc brakes and a parachute. Stephenson has to remove the steering wheel to get in or out.

He is currently discussing with his race crew chief how to find more power: "We've run the car for five years and have had successes but the competition has moved on," he says.

Alongside the dragster in his garage is a standard 5.7-litre Corvette Stingray with a mere 225bhp. He has owned the car for ten years.

Aside from all this ironmongery, however, Stephenson's regular car is a sensible V8 Range Rover — nothing that would trouble the neighbours or cause a stir in the company car park. It all points to a heavily split motoring personality, but he is adamant he will never try to reconcile his Jekyll and Hyde driving sides: "Rovers will definitely not be getting fins. There will not be a convertible Range Rover, and pink will definitely not be the colour for 1999."

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UK Income Inc	69.46	94.00	+ 0.51	2.16
Extra Inc Inc #	41.87	44.53	+ 0.32	3.00
High Yld Inc	118.60	125.70	+ 0.59	3.00
Inc. & Gth Inc	119.60	127.10	+ 0.89	2.32
UK Smaller Cos	54.85	58.35	+ 1.06	1.54
Pacific Gnth Pen	32.39	34.46	+ 0.06	0.93

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	148.10	157.10†	+ 1.10	5.69
High Inc Equity	250.20	267.60†	+ 1.00	3.91
Worldwide Bond	178.80	265.20†	+ 3.20	3.54
American Growth	588.50	626.70†	+ 2.70	0.21
Asian Pacific	221.40	236.40†	+ 0.60	0.21
Assets & Earnings	405.80	434.00†	+ 4.10	2.35
Euro Capital Acc	348.10	340.20	+ 8.00	0.28
Euro Inc	43.51	46.29†	- 0.20	9.03
General	363.50	385.70†	+ 5.80	0.06
Global Opps	97.13	103.40†	+ 1.02	0.35
Japan	77.75	83.16	+ 1.10	...
Managed Inc	98.76	80.36†	+ 0.18	4.22
Managed Unit	208.30	223.90	+ 1.50	1.07
UK Emerging Cos	244.80	261.50	+ 3.80	...
Ethical	110.10	117.10	+ 1.70	1.56
International	163.30	173.70	+ 1.80	0.58
Dividend & Growth	92.95	98.86†	+ 0.50	3.65
Global Gnth & Inc	84.13	89.54	+ 1.26	2.01
Latin America	71.37	78.05	- 2.62	0.46
Capital Reserve	150.80	159.50	+ 0.40	4.46

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

M&F UK Growth	132.40	140.80	+ 0.80	1.33
Equity Income #	160.10	164.70	+ 2.20	3.20
Euro Income #	332.50	350.70	+ 2.80	4.20
Smaller Cos	118.90	125.40†	+ 0.90	1.00
International	152.10	161.80†	+ 1.50	0.75

ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD
Enq: 01345 895 898 Dlg: 08000 833 580

Amer Dep Acc	466.97	476.12	-11.55	...
Emg Mkts Inc	59.30	62.75	- 0.47	0.44
Ethical Inc	100.21	106.03	+ 1.49	0.59
Euro Gwth Acc	153.61	162.11	+ 3.95	...
Euro Smlr Chps Acc	185.19	174.79	+ 4.76	...
Extra Inc Inc	252.56	265.46	+ 1.02	3.59
Extra Inc Acc	347.54	365.65	+ 1.40	3.59
Fd Eng Exon	75.37	79.76	+ 0.60	0.84
Fixed Int Inc #	30.70	32.32†	+ 0.21	7.45
Frontier Mk Inc	83.44	88.28	+ 1.35	...
Fund Of Inv Inc #	233.55	247.14†	+ 3.58	0.35
Fund Of Inv Acc	569.75	603.05	+ 5.73	0.35
Gilt Inc Inc #	51.35	53.53	+ 0.27	7.49
Global Bond Inc	61.50	63.32†	+ 0.51	3.27
Global Inc Inc	35.18	37.09	+ 0.51	3.27
Global Inc Acc	54.06	56.87	+ 0.79	3.27
High Inc Inc	189.95	201.01†	+ 0.43	3.47
High Inc Acc	266.18	271.11	+ 0.62	3.47
Japan Inc	143.10	151.39	- 1.54	...
Latin Amer Inc	64.25	67.98	- 2.33	...
Master Inc Inc	70.25	74.33†	+ 0.39	2.37
Master Gwth Inc	65.74	69.58†	+ 0.36	0.34
North Amer Inc	282.80	297.75	+ 4.80	...
North Amer Acc	293.16	308.12	+ 4.91	...
Pacific Inc	54.26	57.41†	- 0.09	0.22
Prop Shares Inc	104.33	110.40	- 0.25	1.15
Recovery Inc	122.02	129.12		1.25
Recovery Acc	139.71	147.78		1.25
Smaller Cos Inc	204.96	216.90	+ 3.67	0.70
Special Sit Acc	202.14	245.66	+ 2.98	0.70
Tech Inc	885.93	933.65	- 18.70	...
Tech Acc	885.93	933.65	- 18.70	...
UK Blue Chip Inc	120.22	127.45	+ 2.15	2.23
UK Blue Chip Acc	156.75	165.43	+ 2.81	2.23
UK Emg Co Inc	95.24	102.95	+ 4.10	0.60
Ut Gwth Inc	80.68	84.71†	+ 1.25	0.85
World Port Inc #	103.36	109.38	+ 1.35	1.75

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	2972.00	3091.00	+35.00	...

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 9988

Resid Property #	109.60	116.50		5.50

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Amity Income	119.54	126.63	+ 1.65	1.68
Income Builder Inc	109.76	116.77	+ 0.35	2.78

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01283 495 811

Central Dist Fnds	156.78	162.80	- 0.40	...
Founders Fund Fnds	90.51	94.03	+ 0.10	...

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

American Sm Cos	517.60	550.00	+ 1.40	...
Bens	1220.30	1296.60†	+ 8.10	6.29
Bell Smlr Cos	126.80	134.90	+ 0.60	1.80
Europe	467.50	495.70	+12.70	...
Euro Smlr Cos	157.60	163.50	- 0.30	...
High Income #	77.82	82.70†	+ 0.05	4.86
Income	485.00	516.00	+ 5.00	3.57
Japan	388.40	386.30	- 2.50	...
Latin American	103.30	109.90	- 3.50	...
Pacific	70.21	74.66	- 0.30	2.18
UK Smlr Cos	75.58	80.40	+ 1.01	0.98
Japanese Sm Cos	455.50	468.70	- 5.50	...
Mngd Fd	261.00	267.70†	+ 1.70	1.80

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 486 8673

Bal & Dists	471.30	498.40		0.70
Capital Gwth	189.40	200.40	+ 1.00	2.10
World Opps	263.70	279.00		0.79

BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000
Income Funds

	#	#		
1St Sth Mkt Gth				
Cash	100.00	100.00†	+ 0.10	6.73
Cash Acc	134.30	134.30	+ 0.10	6.73
Income #	811.60	865.70	+ 2.80	3.41
Income Builder #	92.58	98.60	+ 0.32	3.98
Balanced Funds				
Bestbuy	125.60	133.80†	+ 1.80	1.01
500	634.10	681.80	+10.10	1.35
General	472.30	505.00	+ 3.10	1.07
Property	275.60	295.60		5.84
Tracker	331.10	353.90	+ 1.80	1.16
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	212.80	227.60	+ 2.00	1.19
FTSE 100	151.40	160.70†	+ 1.60	1.39
Growth Acc	658.50	702.80	+ 5.80	1.04
Smaller Cos	71.19	76.04	+ 0.54	1.25
Smaller Cos Acc	99.02	94.86	+ 1.83	1.25
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	272.90	286.60†	- 0.90	...
American Growth	180.60	190.80	- 0.90	...
Japan	91.12	96.30	+ 0.68	...
Japan Acc	92.17	97.21	+ 0.69	...
Japan Spec Sits	41.79	44.22	+ 0.49	...
Worldwide	248.40	263.60	+ 3.20	0.52
Managed Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	50.58	52.32	- 0.35	6.43
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	50.84	53.66	+ 0.26	5
Managed Growth	54.05	57.51	+ 0.40	0.60
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Barkerline 0800 731 2443				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	144.10	144.80	+ 0.50	4.56
Equity Income #	197.10	210.20†	+ 0.80	3.47
Gilt & Fx Int	64.29	68.00	+ 0.61	6.74
Int Fxd Int	102.10	105.90	+ 0.50	4.74
Ind Fxd Int Acc	132.40	139.80	+ 0.70	4.74
Growth Funds - Uk				
UK Growth	611.90	651.00	+ 7.40	1.09
UK Growth Acc	611.90	651.00	+ 7.40	1.09
Growth & Inc	622.50	662.30†	+ 8.60	1.13
Growth & Inc Acc	1354	1441	+15.00	1.13
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	318.00	338.50	+ 7.90	0.45
Euro Growth Acc	348.20	368.50	+ 8.60	0.45
Far Eastern Gwth	103.40	110.00	+ 1.00	0.82
Far East Gth Acc	175.50	186.70	+ 1.60	0.82

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	215.40	228.30	- 0.50	...
Amer Smlr Cos	177.60	187.50	- 4.40	...
Eastern	150.10	161.80†	+ 0.90	0.30
Equity Income #	139.00	148.10†	+ 1.50	4.00
European Growth	686.60	728.70†	+10.10	0.80
Europe	579.20	619.30	+ 6.90	0.50
German Growth	176.70	187.20	+ 4.50	0.56
Global Bond	78.41	80.38	+ 0.45	5.10
Global Growth	207.30	235.90	+ 1.60	0.10
Japan Growth	112.80	119.40	+ 1.80	...
Japan Smaller	80.43	85.68	+ 0.14	...
Korea Trust	25.26	27.42	+ 0.57	...
Pacific	203.90	217.00	+ 1.60	1.80
-do- Accum	306.60	421.40	+ 2.40	1.80
UK Growth	161.00	171.50	+ 2.10	1.60
Us Smaller Cos	165.40	176.80†	+ 3.70	1.00
Select Managers	109.80	117.10	+ 1.20	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000

Intl Gwth Port Inc	118.70	124.10	- 1.40	...
Special Opps Inc	59.52	62.76	- 2.09	...

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6026

Balanced Growth	214.25	223.18†	+ 2.08	0.54
-do- Accum	254.21	264.80	+ 2.46	0.54
Smaller Cos	232.02	241.69†	+ 3.54	0.09
-do- Accum	265.85	274.85	+ 4.48	0.09
Higher Yield #	80.65	84.01†	+ 0.49	3.71
-do- Accum #	133.75	139.32	+ 0.81	3.31
American Gth Inc	152.55	162.03	+ 0.49	...
European Growth	269.05	280.26	+ 6.84	0.02
-do- Accum	274.81	286.26	+ 4.95	0.02
Managed Portfio Inc	88.46	71.31	+ 0.60	1.22
-do- Accum	72.05	75.09	+ 0.64	1.22
Int Spec Opps	236.90	248.05	+ 2.61	...
Pacific Gwth	103.84	107.96	- 0.15	0.49
UK General #	143.68	149.61	+ 1.00	2.30
-do- Accum #	168.24	186.91	+ 1.11	2.30
Japan	39.25	40.89	+ 0.58	...
Gilt & Fixed Int #	111.14	115.17†	+ 0.47	7.15

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7218

Shrot Dated Gilt	64.90	65.82	- 0.24	0.35

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5000

Envion	356.00	378.30	+ 5.80	1.09
UK Growth	314.90	330.70	+ 2.90	1.16
UK Income	210.90	221.50†	+ 0.90	3.16

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Gen Dist	318.90	338.00	+ 3.60	1.01
-do- Income Dis	178.60	189.20†	+ 2.00	2.07
-do- Accum	608.70	645.20†	+ 7.10	2.07
Gilt & Fxd Int	44.02	47.09	+ 0.43	4.82
Growth Units	383.00	406.00	+ 4.40	1.42
Bond	139.90	394.00	+ 1.20	5.70
Int Growth	286.50	286.90†	+ 3.20	0.25
North American	380.20	403.30	+ 0.40	...
Far East	171.20	193.10	+ 1.90	1.16
UK Smaller Cos	332.60	355.70	+ 7.80	0.82
European	150.50	160.20	+ 3.50	0.40
Japanese Growth	26.00	29.80†	- 0.23	...
High Income	315.80	337.20†	+ 3.50	2.54
Managed Pfos	263.60	280.74	+ 5.80	0.06
Portfolio	288.63	115.58†	+ 1.26	1.04
UK Income Inc	134.30	142.97	+ 1.48	3.50

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7453 Enq 0161 831 7453 Dlg 0161 831 7455

American & Gen	339.20	356.50	- 1.70	...
European Inc	166.60	176.20	+ 3.70	0.38
Smaller Cos (4-1)	135.30	144.00	+ 2.00	1.45
Sterling	814.10	868.10	+13.60	1.53
Income & Growth #	687.20	709.80	+ 2.90	3.75
-do- Accum #	1082.20	1130.00	+ 4.60	3.75
Japan & Gen	47.99	50.36	- 0.11	...
Hallmark Gwth	1595.00	1706.00†	+22.00	1.30
-do- Accum	2142.00	2232.00	+28.00	1.30
Special Sits	186.70	200.80	+ 3.20	1.90
High Yield	2144.65	2211.90†	+14.00	3.29

CAREHOME UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 005 0700

Carehome Portfolio	128.97	137.16	+ 0.85	2.13
American Portfolio	185.77	198.69	- 2.68	0.49
European Portfolio	200.85	248.61	+ 6.08	0.27
Pacific Portfolio	85.48	94.42†	+ 0.76	6.34
Japanese Portfolio	45.65	48.37†	- 0.26	...
Pacific Portfolio	108.69	116.78	- 0.94	1.34
UK Equity	132.15	140.89	+ 1.38	2.59
UK Equity & Bd	73.36	77.79	+ 0.72	4.97
UK Smlr Cos	66.93	71.27	+ 1.22	1.63

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Inc Fd Inc	1065.43	1081.53	- 23.31	3.21
Inc Fd Acc	1107.05	1123.79	- 24.22	...
Fxd Int Sec Inc	169.28	169.96	- 0.58	7.53
Fxd Int Sec Acc	184.49	185.23	- 0.62	...

CDF CHARITY FUNDS
0177 588 1815

Investment Inc	1038.98	1054.66	- 5.35	3.30
Investment Acc	5084.93	5161.79	-26.24	...
Fixed Int Inc	136.93	137.47	+ 0.28	7.57
Fixed Int Acc	283.24	284.38	+ 0.59	...

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 588 6800

Emerging Mkt	102.13	107.38	- 0.11	5.76
Resh Bio-Tech	41.11	44.45	- 0.88	...
Ascot Ethical Tst	334.37	349.33	- 2.39	0.49
City Fin Assets	99.40	104.39†	- 1.79	2.71
City Fin Intl	95.05	100.18†	- 1.71	...
Fidelio Inv Cap	436.30	464.15	- 0.84	2.08
Barclay Yield Gnt	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	91.65	93.59†	- 0.04	2.76

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 49.08 52.07 - 0.57 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGMT LTD
0345 777 233

American Eqty	115.86	123.30	+ 0.39	...
Dragon Growth	41.99	44.61	- 0.04	1.97
Equity High Inc #	134.37	142.15	+ 1.80	3.78
Euro Income Inc	203.77	215.62	+ 2.87	3.78
Euro Income Acc	29.47	31.03	+ 0.16	5.68
Euro Income Acc	35.11	36.96	+ 0.20	5.68
European Gwth	113.27	119.86	+ 3.01	...
Emerging	42.52	45.17	+ 0.14	...
General Equity	158.34	165.00	+ 1.63	1.69
Japan Growth	31.73	33.76	+ 0.02	...
Pedigree Gwth	100.66	105.75	+ 0.80	1.11
Pref Equity Inc	53.14	54.29	+ 0.41	6.94
Pref Equity Acc	57.45	58.70	+ 1.49	6.94
Retirement Inc #	38.93	41.42	+ 0.40	4.31
Special Sits	66.95	71.86	+ 0.46	1.51
UK & Overseas	79.35	83.97	+ 0.24	4.22

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 888 000

Balanced	94.21	98.13	+ 0.86	2.84
Capital	120.06	125.88	+ 1.22	1.54
High Income	57.88	60.68	+ 0.28	6.32
Top 50	97.17	99.80	+ 1.35	1.58

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	374.68	395.15†	+ 4.33	3.54
Long Gilt	58.24	55.42†	+ 0.78	7.45
Monthly Inc Plus	83.20	85.84	+ 0.75	6.81
-do- Accum	78.29	81.56	+ 0.92	6.81
Preference Share	80.62	83.15†	+ 0.80	8.17
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	186.97	194.78†	+ 2.86	4.95
Managed Fund	94.69	98.65†	+ 0.83	2.15
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	61.22	63.78†	+ 1.32	1.33
-do- Accum	73.88	76.91†	+ 1.63	1.32
UK & General	140.24	148.10†	+ 1.35	1.86
-do- Accum	189.06	196.98†	+ 1.97	1.86
UK Growth	278.97	290.62†	+ 2.70	1.36
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	374.97	390.83†	+11.47	0.34
Far Eastern Gth	98.95	92.67†	+ 0.22	0.30
Global Bond	72.94	75.99†	+ 0.43	5.05
Japan Growth	81.97	85.39†	+ 0.06	...
North Amer Gwth	362.56	377.73†	+ 0.84	...
Oriental Growth	51.66	54.08†	+ 0.02	0.69
Worldwide Growth	98.15	100.17†	+ 1.19	0.36
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.15	92.15†	+ 0.10	6.74
Homemaker Fund	115.98	123.40	+ 0.69	1.85

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 556 8800

Consistent Ut	48.84	52.03	+ 0.41	2.48

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	231.00	245.40†	+ 3.10	1.65
UK Equ Inc	99.15	105.41	+ 0.84	2.16
European Growth	122.50	131.00	+ 3.59	0.10
UK Spec Sits	282.30	279.00†	+ 3.98	1.72

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist		1407.80	1429.30		3.03

CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD
01277 680 370

European Inc	113.29	120.00	+ 2.90	0.26
Fellowship Tst	146.30	155.80†	+ 3.50	0.86
Income #	382.00	417.00†	+ 3.50	3.30
-do- Accum #	1699.00	1169.00	+10.00	3.30
Smaller Cos	299.40	318.30	+10.30	0.58
-do- Accum	375.50	399.40	+13.00	0.58
Gbl Portfolio	141.50	150.55	+ 3.05	1.01
Mthly Inc Port #	116.00	124.00	+ 1.30	3.15

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1634

Global Sm Cos	2034.60	2069.00	-10.60	0.45
UK Small Cos	2662.80	2798.00	+40.20	3.16

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 0818

Disc Inc	318.10	327.90†	+ 2.30	2.10

DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD
Dealing: 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline: 0800 317573
Formerly KBWT

Amer Smlr Cos	232.43	247.28	- 2.33	...
Asian Growth	165.35	176.95	- 1.02	0.30
Bond Income	112.02	116.02	+ 0.52	6.40
European	327.99	348.72	+ 4.82	0.40
European Prm	163.89	174.35	+ 4.17	0.70
European Special	245.10	260.74	+ 1.14	...
Gilt Yield	132.41	139.69	+ 1.34	6.10
Global Eqty Inc	157.68	167.72	+ 1.78	1.49
High Yield #	228.91	243.52†	+ 3.93	3.90
Japan	278.34	295.89	+ 1.83	...
Japanese Special	127.45	135.56	+ 0.51	...
Money Market	104.82	104.82	- 0.08	6.20
North American	189.56	180.31	- 1.13	...
Smaller Cos	195.43	207.86†	+ 3.00	0.66
Smaller Cos Dist	85.37	88.89†	+ 1.76	4.29
Strategic Cat Ex	1389.00	1410.00	+ 19.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	71.35	75.90	+ 1.15	0.60
UK Index Inc	490.99	492.56†	+ 5.43	2.47
Global Income	175.84	203.44†	+ 1.91	2.80
Formerly Rcm/dkr				
Emerging	558.44	586.80	+ 7.68	0.30
Europe Inc	40.06	41.85	+ 0.36	7.50
Europe	992.73	1033.16†	+11.96	1.00
Global Eqty Mkts	72.79	77.35	+ 0.67	0.30
Japan Inc	59.80	62.40†	+ 0.19	...
Latin Dragons	65.07	70.02†	- 0.02	...
North Amer Gwth	453.62	484.64	+ 0.06	0.50
Oriental Income #	34.68	36.21	+ 0.15	3.40
Preference	157.95	165.38†	+ 1.54	7.80
Tiger	173.43	181.80†	+ 1.44	...
UK High Yield #	164.58	172.33†	+ 1.75	3.80
UK Mkt Opps	494.49	522.44†	+ 8.27	1.50
UK Smlr Cos Dlr #	103.45	108.32	+ 1.22	5.50
UK Smlr Cos	172.25	180.36	+ 6.33	...

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 525

Conservatives #	28.17	29.60	+ 0.02	4.08
Equity Income #	202.30	214.90	+ 1.40	2.96
Extra Income	100.90	106.00	+ 0.52	6.42
Financial	88.62	94.37	+ 1.26	1.05
UK Growth #	418.50	444.70	+ 4.90	1.57
High Dist #	250.40	265.60†	+ 2.00	3.20
International	510.60	542.50	+ 7.40	...
Int Cap Inc	126.30	144.40†	+ 0.60	1.67
Latin American	34.10	36.23	- 1.03	...
Mgd Gwth Port	114.50	119.70	+ 0.70	0.58
Pacific	152.44	166.34	- 0.12	...
Prof High Inc	28.07	29.76†	+ 0.20	6.05
Tokyo	139.30	147.30	+ 1.50	...
UK Smaller Cos	304.10	323.40	+ 7.00	0.96
Japan Sm Cos	237.50	244.00†	+ 0.70	...
Nth Amer	647.80	678.30	+ 3.70	...

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 6042

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VICTORIA'S SECRET 64

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Just the job when you are too ill to work

The State wants you to provide for yourself. What policies will you need and how much will they cost? Helen Pridham tests health cover

Self-sufficiency is the Government's watchword. We can *no longer expect to rely on* the State or our employer if we fall ill or suffer prolonged disability. The insurance industry is anxious to step in, offering an array of expensive policies.

Permanent health insurance, confusingly also known as income-replacement insurance, income-protection insurance, or permanent disability insurance is a substitute for *State* sickness benefit. The insurance provides an income if you are unable to work. Critical illness, another type of insurance, pays out a lump sum to cover the immediate medical and other expenses of a serious illness.

Although the consequences of coping without this cover can be painful, the cost can be considerable and the difficulties in making a claim *sometimes insurmountable*.

A woman solicitor with three children and earning £50,000-a-year would pay around £79-a-month for £100,000 worth of critical illness cover, and a further £43.40 to replace 50 per cent of her income with a permanent health policy.

Here we explain what you should look for in these policies, focussing below on permanent health and, on page 56, on critical illness.

If you develop a long-term health problem, the financial outlook is certainly no rosy in terms of State *support*. You could receive as little as £3,364.40 from the State after 52 weeks off sick as a single person on incapacity benefit. With a spouse and two dependent children you would receive £6,479.20 a year. This assumes you are eligible.

When the last Government introduced the "all work" medical test in April 1995 its intention was that only people who were too sick to follow any occupation at all — not just the one they were following at the time *they fell ill — should qualify*.

In theory, income replacement insurance provides a perfect solution. You can use it to make sure you will receive a realistic income if you fall ill and are unable to perform your own job. Insurers will typically allow you to insure between 50 per *cent and 65 per cent of your* earnings. Once payments start, they can continue until you recover, or until retirement if necessary. But, like other financial products, a policy can end up a disappointment if you are not sold the right one.

This is why it is better to deal with an independent financial adviser who can sell you any policy rather than a direct salesman who will sell *only one*.

The most vital consideration is getting a policy that will pay out if your ill-heath prevents you following your own occupation. Some insurers still require you not only to be incapable of performing your own occupation, but also any alternative one for which you may be suited by education and training. Worst of all are those that will pay out only if you are incapable of doing any job at all.

Alan Lakey, of Highclere Financial Services, the independent financial adviser, in Hemel Hempstead, said: "Some insurers, such as Axa Equity & Law, apply different definitions to different occupations, but really it is not worth bothering with a policy that has anything other than an 'own occupation' definition of disability; otherwise a company may simply turn down your claim because it can say you are capable of doing an alternative job."

Cost is always an important feature of any insurance policy. In *the case of permanent health insurance*, it is related to a number of factors including your age and gender (women normally pay more) and how quickly you want the policy to start paying out. The most popular options are for payments to start after three or six months of *continuous illness. Some* policies will pay out after only four weeks and others up to two years.

Your occupation is also a crucial factor. Insurers divide jobs into different categories of risk. Premiums for those in desk-bound jobs are lower than for manual workers. A recent permanent health insurance survey in *Money Management* magazine found that while *some companies would charge* a male restaurateur more than twice as much as an admin clerk for the same amount of cover, others charged less than 50 per cent more.

It is not only the initial cost that should be considered. Many companies sell unit-linked or reviewable premium policies which allow them to put up costs if investment returns are inadequate or a company suffers *poor claims experience. These policies* are often cheaper than guaran*teed premium policies* to start with, but Mr Lakey prefers the latter which are only offered by a handful of companies including Swiss Life, Friends Provident and Royal & Sun-Alliance. "Guaranteed premium policies may be slightly dearer to start with but they often work out less expensive in the long run."

This is one of the reasons why reviewing your cover regularly is advisable. Keeping your insurer informed about any changes in your occupation is also important. If you have moved to riskier employment, a claim may be refused if you have not done so. Alternatively, if you get promoted and your job is lower-risk *your premiums might go down*.

You may even find you no longer *need your cover*. Julie Lord, of Cavendish Financial Management, in Cardiff, who is also chairman of the Institute of Financial Planning, said: "There is no point in continuing to pay for cover if you have built up sufficient resources that could generate you an income instead."

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Illness apart, Bryan Rostron's problems began when he wanted to go abroad to improve his health

Small print can cloud the big picture if you claim

Widespread changes in the benefits system spelt out in the recent Green Paper on Welfare Reform indicate a squeeze on incapacity benefit. But those considering private insurance should be warned: policies vary greatly and consumers can experience problems making claims.

Richard Hanson-James, a chartered *loss adjuster, said: "The difficulty* is an expectation gap. A policy*holder may think* a private insurance policy will cover gaps in the benefits system, but each policy is different with different exclusions, and particular problems for certain groups like the self-employed."

Incapacity benefit currently costs £7.8 billion, a tenth of the social security budget. Three times more people receive it now than in 1979 so the benefit is ripe to be reviewed. A spokesman at the Department of Social Security said: "The benefit will remain available to anyone who has paid their national insurance contributions but the forms of *medical tests to check that you are* eligible will be changed."

Bryan Rostron, a freelance writer, took out an income protection plan with Allied Dunbar in 1994. In February 1997, his doctor advised him to give up most of his work. Allied Dunbar began to pay out £1,466 a month as agreed in the terms of his policy. Problems began when his doctor advised that a move to a sunnier climate would improve his illness. Mr Rostron, a South African by birth, decided to move to Cape Town to try to regain his health and restart work. "The broker who'd arranged my policy was enormously helpful. But somewhere *along the line at Allied Dunbar* a manager said the move was a *problem," he* said. "My policy stipulated that the ill-health payments would be made only as long as I was living in Western Europe.

"It was ludicrous that they would continue to pay out as long as I stayed in a country that was making me ill, but balked at the idea of paying me in a country that might make me better and off their books."

Mr Rostron turned to Hanson-*James Associates. "It appeared to us* that Bryan had some misunderstandings about the policy but there is a stringent requirement now that the policyholder understands the policy clearly," said Mr Hanson-James. "This was a one-off case. It wasn't *going to create any* dangerous precedent. We presented these facts to Allied Dunbar and advised them that discretion and compassion should be exercised. To their credit they saw it like that too."

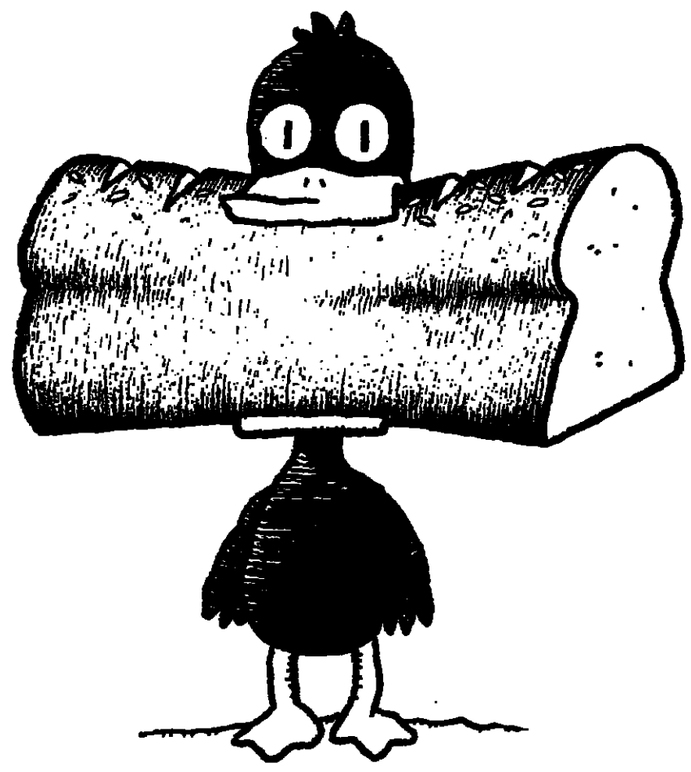
Allied Dunbar says it reserves the right to bring people within the geographical limit of the UK or Western Europe, but in practice will continue to pay wherever it can.

Mr Hanson-James first decided to take on policyholders' cases after his wife had problems making an insurance claim. She had taken out a policy with Consolidated and Gen*eral to cover repayments on her car* if she was ill and unable to work. *But it refused to pay after she* underwent major surgery and was off work for six months, saying her policy carried a 120-day limitation.

Mr Hanson-James wrote to the company's chief executive framing points he planned to make to the Insurance Ombudsman. He pointed out that the sickness section of the policy carried no time limit. The only limit was in the death section. *The chief executive personally re*viewed the case, paid the claim in *full, with interest for late payment.*

SARAH SHANNON

Scottish Amicable



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MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

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Food for hungry shareholders

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Famine relief at last. The prospect of a bid from Unigate may not be welcome to Sir John Nott, chairman of Hillsdown Holdings, who has his own fissiparous restructuring plan. It is the best news for ages for long-suffering food company shareholders.

Even a decade ago, it seemed clear to some of us that many UK food groups were in a bind. Typically, they were built round a big, low-growth business, such as milk or bread, and had lots of brands but few market leaders. Supermarkets offer good business making own-label goods, but these sweep all but top brands off the shelves.

A series of mergers was needed to create one or two companies that really could live with Tesco, Sainsbury et al, who rule in Britain, and compete with the huge multinationals that were beginning to dominate markets globally. These include Anglo-Dutch Unilever, with a market value of £50 billion, Switzerland's Nestlé and France's BSN, as well as America's Pepsico, Heinz or Phillip Morris, which added Kraft, Maxwell House and Jakobs Suchard to tobacco.

Unilever has delivered us remarkably good returns, beating the all-share index over five and ten years. Most of the national companies have been poor investments. Hillsdown and some others have lagged far behind the average. Leadership has failed, mergers have not happened and fate has been fickle.

Sir Robert Clarke said when he became chairman of United Biscuits that the McVities, KP and Phineas Fogg group had to grow fast by acquisition and become truly multinational: otherwise it would lose the game and be taken over. But continental expansion had hardly gathered speed when competition from Pepsico's snacks floored UB in the States. Years of painful and sapping retrenchment followed. Pepsico's Walkers Crisps now rule in Britain. UB is starting to expand again, buying Campbell's biscuit interests. Its shares still trade a third lower than six years ago, while the index has more than doubled.

Among others that could have been building blocks for a great British food company, Dalgety was poleaxed over animal feeds and has virtually given up the ghost, dispersing its food interests in all directions. Allied Domecq, formerly Allied Lyons, has been another lousy long-term performer, which shed its food and beer interests in bits and pieces. Its shares have yet to recover their 1993 peak. Ranks Hovis McDougall, long prey to speculators, was bought by Tomkins, the conglomerate run by Greg Hutchings. It brought no luck. Until 1992 Tomkins was an index-beater. Since then, it has been a laggard. Even Northern Foods, which focused well on own-label supply, has fallen badly from favour.

Successful groups shared a trait. They stuck to one or two big if low-growth food businesses, rather than trying to bolt growth on. Gary Weston's £5 billion Associated British Foods, which added sugar to bakery, is the best antidote to gloom. Derided in the City as stodgy and cautious, ABF has beaten the index well over five and ten years.

Tate & Lyle has virtually matched the index by becoming a world force in a wide range of competing sweeteners. The £9 billion Cadbury Schweppes, another average performer, has focused successfully on soft drinks and confectionery, but still looks vulnerable to bigger firms that can support their brands more strongly. Cadbury has long been seen as the natural buyer of United Biscuits, especially by us UB shareholders.

Ross Buckland, a Kellogg's graduate, has tidied up Unigate's mistakes, improved marketing and added a momentum that has made the St Ivel dairy group a fair investment over five years. He needs to maintain momentum. A combined Unigate-Hillsdown would be worth only £3 billion before any net-of-debt disposals. But this could be a catalyst to wider change bringing in, perhaps, Diageo's Pillsbury. It's better late than never.

Prudential strikes right balance on with-profits bond

HIT OR MISS

Fears of a sudden reverse in the fortunes of the stock market are boosting the popularity of with-profits bonds which offer cautious investors the chance to dabble in the market, by spreading their risk between shares, cash, gilts and property. Every year the insurance company offering the bond declares a bonus based on the investment's performance.

Sales of bonds are booming, with the Prudential Bond among the most popular. The bond tops the list of current best buys at Chartwell, a firm of independent financial advisers which compiles a with-profit guide. Also impressed is Graham Bates, chairman of Leeds investment adviser Bates & Partners.

He said: "The Prudential with-profits bond is a definite hit with us. It offers a nice, safe environment for investors, and its performance has been good ever since it came to the market in 1991.

"It also pays a terminal bonus which is allocated to the fund from day one, which is good because most insurance companies specify a period of time before the bonus clicks in and, although the terminal bonus is not guaranteed, it does enhance the return."

Malcolm Murray, chief executive of Lowes Financial Management, also says the Prudential Bond is a worthwhile investment. He says: "Anybody who invested in the bond in 1991 would receive the equivalent of 11 per cent per annum if they encashed it this year. Although potentially bigger returns are available through other equity investments like unit and investment trusts, for a relatively low-risk scheme it is a very good performance."

However, with-profit bonds are not a universal panacea. Some advisers may wax enthusiastic because the commissions payable from insurance companies offering these investments are generous. They can be as high as 7 per cent.

The Prudence Bond's initial charge is 5 per cent. Standard bond commission is 5.25 per cent. The Prudential says it refunds a portion of the initial charge, lessening its impact on the investment.

The nature of with-profit bonds makes them more suitable for taxpayers than for non-taxpayers since the fund from which the profits are distributed is taxed at source and there is no way that the tax paid can be reclaimed.

Roddy Kohn of the investment adviser Kohn Cougar is also a fan of the Prudence Bond, although he says there are other options.

He said: "Like all investments, people should consider the suitability of with-profits bonds in relation to their personal circumstances, but there is no doubt that the Prudential with-profits bond is a sound product with good defensive qualities.

"I'd say it is a good bet for somebody looking to use it as a bedrock for their investment portfolio while still getting some exposure to equities."

However, Kohn says that investors looking to buy a with-profits bond might want to consider one of the other life offices in the hope that they might get the added bonus of free windfall shares if the company demutualises.

"Some people might prefer to buy their bond from a mutual, like Friends Provident or NPI, which offer a similar return and level of security but which might demutualise one day and give away free shares."

Score: ★★★★

Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

JOHN GIVENS

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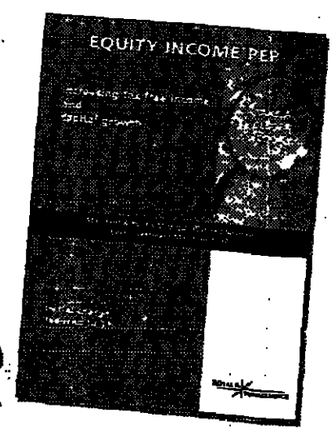
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ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

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Bank finally plays fair with angry customers

Susan Emmett reports on the moves since the OFT decision to look into the Northern Rock rates strategy

Hundreds of Northern Rock savers will be moving their money into the bank's highest-paying account after an announcement by the bank this week that all notice periods have been suspended until June 18. The move is a victory for a campaign by *The Times* for fairness to savers.

The move, which comes after the start of an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), is a climbdown by the Newcastle bank that slashed rates without warning but refused to allow customers the freedom to move elsewhere without notice. The restructuring reduced the number of accounts from 11 to three and left about 200,000 customers worse off, many unaware of the changes until *The Times* drew attention to the issue.

However, Northern Rock is now allowing savers to move funds to higher-paying accounts without penalty or notice and backdating the transfers to April 23, the date the restructuring took place.

Tony Armstrong, director of corporate relations at Northern Rock, said the move was a reaction to customers' concerns. Mr Armstrong said: "We will be giving savers interest credit. It will be as if the transaction took place on April 23."

Northern Rock is writing to inform more than one million customers. The bank said the letters will be sent first-class and should arrive next week.

All savers will benefit from the U-turn, especially those hardest hit by the restructuring — customers with deposits in the abolished 90-day notice account who used the high interest to supplement their incomes or plan for retirement. Select 90 had previously paid as much as 8.15 per cent for deposits over £100,000. After the changes, rates dropped to 7.5 per cent.

Many savers will now be moving to the Save Direct Instant, the new telephone-based account which pays a top rate of 8.1 per cent. However, the best-buy rate includes an introductory bonus of 0.25 per cent which could disappear on July 1, so savers might still earn less than they had with the former Select 90.

Dawn and David Woodley are among the investors who had counted on the income from their Select 90 account to top up their pension. The couple were so incensed by the way Northern Rock handled the restructuring that they applied to withdraw their savings but would have lost about £120 during the notice period. However, since Northern Rock's announcement on Monday, Mr and Mrs Woodley have applied to have their savings transferred into the direct account.

Dawn Woodley said: "We are very, very pleased that we can transfer immediately. We are absolutely delighted with the way *The Times* has dealt with the issue and the outcome. It's going to be fine. We are not going to lose the interest we thought we were going to lose. We are still miffed with Northern Rock's cavalier attitude but we are very pleased with *The Times*'s intervention."

Other savers were less impressed with Northern Rock. Jenefer Golding, a secondary school teacher, said: "I still have not received the letter telling me about the restructuring which isn't very impressive. It doesn't inspire much confidence, does it?"

Northern Rock has now pledged to give customers notice that is at least the equivalent to the notice period on their account. A few months ago, the bank vowed to write to every customer each time a change was introduced. Despite this, many failed to receive notification and some were only told after the changes had been made.

The delay occurred because Northern Rock used a seven-working-day Royal Mail delivery service but posted the letters only five working days before the change.

Adam Applegarth, executive director of Northern Rock, said: "Some customers were not satisfied with our individual notification of our move to streamline accounts — or notification of a reduction in interest rates where this applied. They have made their feelings known."

Banks' treatment of customers has drawn increasing political fire and the Treasury is now looking at ways of tightening the building society and banking code. The issue was first highlighted by David Davis, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, who drew attention to the practice of some banks and building societies of introducing new competitive accounts but failing to inform customers of the better deals.

Banks which are improving their service have had an overwhelming response from customers. Last month, the Woolwich launched an initiative to inform customers of its latest products and best rates by inviting them for one-to-one consultations. The bank expected to hold between 1,200 and 1,500 interviews a week. However, more than 4,000 a week applied.

JOHN McLELLAN



Dawn and David Woodley are delighted at the turnaround

Savers can take advantage of direct approach

Northern Rock may have been in the spotlight over its recent savings account debacle, but it is not the only bank under scrutiny by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). The whole sector faces the threat of legal action if it does not treat its customers fairly.

The announcement came after mounting criticism over the way banks and building societies frequently revamp their savings structure, change rates and leave savers to languish in uncompetitive accounts, often failing to inform them of better deals.

The competitive nature of the savings market has led to the launch of a number of telephone-operated instant-access accounts, which overturned the notion that accounts with longer notice periods pay higher rates.

The lower administration costs of running direct accounts mean that telephone-based services usually pay higher rates than the branch-based equivalent; and as banks and building societies bring in new products in order to top the best-buy charts, accounts with shorter notice periods can sometimes offer better returns than older accounts with longer tie-ins.

Paying lower rates on accounts with longer notice periods is often justified by banks and building societies which claim they are offering a "fundamentally different product", as is the case with the Scarborough Building Society.

The launch of its 30-day notice account last November £1,000, a rate substantially higher than those offered by the 75-day account and the now obsolete 50-day account. These returns are topped only by the higher tier in the 120-day account, which pays 7.7 per cent for deposits of more than £50,000.

John Carrier, chief executive of Scarborough Building Society, said: "The reason for the difference is that the 30-day account only allows savers to give notice twice a year before the rate drops."

Nationwide has taken a similar approach to Capital-Builder, its 90-day notice account that allows withdrawals without notice or penalty at any time, as long as the balance remains more than £10,000.

However, the 90-day account, which has a top rate of 6.3 per cent, pays less than the 60-day product, which offers up to 7.5 per cent but charges you 60-day interest for an instant withdrawal.

The differences in interest paid between direct services and the branch-based equivalent can also be considerable. Halifax's direct account, launched in January, pays up to 7.85 per cent on balances of more than £40,000 while the top rate for Liquid Gold, the branch-based equivalent, offers 4.65 per cent for sums of more than £25,000.

The same applies to Bradford & Bingley Building Society, which pays up to 7.15 per cent in its direct service but a top rate of 5.25 per cent for branch savers.

SUSAN EMMETT

Cool cats and cuddly Isas



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Isa is a cold word which is maybe why the Government has chosen to associate its new savings scheme with cats which are cuddly. The Cat standard aims to ensure that individual savings accounts (Isas) have reasonable charges, easy access and fair terms. The measure is a praiseworthy attempt to ensure that investors get good value. But Isa advertisements that carry the Cat standard should be obliged to mention that this benchmark of quality makes no performance promises.

The standard can only be applied to certain types of account, being restricted to cash, insurance and index-tracker unit trust schemes. For the investment trust industry whose wares have been excluded from the scope of the benchmark, the Cat Standard is T.S. Eliot's Rum Tum Tugger, a curious, perverse creature. However, its managers have only themselves to blame. Investment trusts are, theoretically, ideally suited to novice savers, having a wide spread of holdings. But the share prices of many trusts stand at a significant discount to their assets, which means anyone selling out gets a poor bargain. Most managers have, to date, failed to take the necessary measures to remedy this, often because they are reluctant to spend the necessary money. Long-standing private investors who were perhaps hoping that the coming of the Isa would attract new money, and thus narrow the discounts, should give up hope now.

Contracts race

THE Government's sudden support for the prenuptial contract is not surprising. The wish to make these agreements legally binding stems not so much from a lack of romance among ministers, as from a desire to save money and foster self-sufficiency. Making provision against marital breakdown is seen to be as desirable as paying the maximum into a pension and buying permanent health insurance.

But, while we should recognise that ministers are less anxious about the family welfare than to cut social security and legal aid bills, we should not dismiss the prenuptial contract as a politically expedient means to make divorces easier. The "prenup" might help to make more marriages work, obliging the bridal pair to confront their responsibilities from the outset. Couples contemplating matrimony would be required to carry out long-term financial planning, taking into account changes in earnings and the need to provide for children.

However, both parties would need the best of advice to help them to assess their situation now and in the future. Herein lies a pitfall. If the prenup becomes a normal, and even obligatory, step on the route to the altar, then you can foresee every bank and insurance company racing to offer free contracts, using the opportunity to sell insurances and investments on high commissions. This would not promote marital harmony.

Blues brothers

THIS year the financial services industry has perceived youth as an underdeveloped market. Its principal means of attracting this audience is the copious use of blue in advertising, suggesting blue skies and blue denim. Azure is the keynote colour of B2, the new Barclays savings division, with its stock market bond of dubious value. Now American Express is following the trend with its Blue Credit Card. American Express wishes to reach the twentysomethings who like to live it up on credit. They may not be easily beguiled. These are the children who have grown up with BBC *Watchdog* and are now reading personal finance pages. Examining the blue card's standard 19.5 per cent interest rate, they will be unimpressed. However, they will not be opting for ageing Barclaycard, that other blue card whose rates are decidedly uncool.

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Karen Woolfson on choosing between permanent health and critical illness cover

PETER LOMAS



Carol Webster, with husband Malcolm and younger sons Barry, 15, and Wayne, 11, took out a critical illness plan when she started her own business

The right cover is a critical business

Own firm prompted policy

In November last year Carol Webster took out a critical illness plan with life cover to protect herself and her family in case she contracts a disease. She has a Bupa policy which runs for 20 years and will pay an £80,000 lump sum if she falls ill and provide extra benefits if one of her four children suffers from a serious condition.

Ms Webster, 40, has just set up an agricultural and horticultural supply business with her husband. She said: "Starting a business in the middle of my life and running a household as well, I wanted to secure my husband and children in case anything happens to me. The Bupa cover will help to pay for someone to take over in the business if I'm ill. If I die, the lump sum will go to my husband."

Ms Webster pays £46.93 per month for the policy which has brought her some peace of mind. Her family has a history of critical illness and she wanted to be prepared for the worst. "My Dad died of cancer, my Dad's sister died at 42 of a heart attack, my grandma had a stroke and my grandad had a heart attack and died at the age of 52."

In addition to the above, she knows that she will receive immediate treatment in the event of a critical illness.

Preparing for a self-sufficient life is expensive and full of complex definitions. At first, permanent health insurance, or income replacement insurance, and critical illness insurance, also called serious illness insurance, sound much alike. But the differences are more than subtle.

Permanent health cover gives an income if you are off work from illness or accident. Critical illness plans pay out a lump sum after a serious condition has been diagnosed, to pay off debts and medical expenses. But critical illness policies can have an income option.

As insurers are eager to point out, you are five times more likely to suffer a serious illness than to die before 65 — 800 people a week have heart attacks. Critical illness benefits are payable for many conditions from Alzheimer's disease to heart attacks, kidney failure, multiple sclerosis and terminal illnesses. But it is very expensive and is not regulated under the Financial Services Act, unless the policy has a surrender value. So if you are sold an inappropriate policy, you may have no recourse against the adviser.

POLICY TERMS

As critical illness cover is so costly, it pays to check the terms of the policy before you sign up, fall ill and find your condition is excluded. The 60 insurance groups analysed in the *Guide to Critical Illness Assurance 1998/1999*; by John Joseph, an independent financial adviser, provide cover for cancer, coronary artery bypass, heart attacks, kidney failure, multiple sclerosis and strokes. The £399 guide is for professionals — ask your adviser if he has checked it before recommending a policy.

Policies usually exclude attempted suicide, wilful exposure to needless peril, failure to follow medical advice, misuse of drugs and alcohol, unnecessary or unlawfully performed operations, living abroad for more than 13 weeks in any year outside listed countries, and Aids/HIV.

When you read the terms, bear in mind your medical history. For example, if your family has a history of *diabetes millitus* then you would want a policy from a provider that does not exclude it, such as PPP Lifetime or Bupa. But if you want arthritis cover, Norwich Union and Scottish Life will be on your list.

POLICY TYPES

You can buy critical illness either as a stand-alone policy, or attached to a mortgage ensuring it will be repaid if you fall ill. Colin Ledlie, Standard Life general manager, said: "You can attach critical illness cover to an endowment or a repayment mortgage. If you have a repayment loan you can take out a 'decreasing' term policy which falls in line with the mortgage to pay off the loan if you fall ill."

Scottish Provident and Scottish Life offer endowments with this cover attached, while Ivory & Sime and Standard Life offer Pep mortgages. *Standard Life's Homeplan is* an example of a policy attached to a mortgage. If a man aged 45 takes out a £100,000 endowment mortgage with a 20-year term and attaches critical illness to the life cover, the premiums will be £289.40 a month. If he takes out a joint life with critical illness plan with his wife, it rises to £318.20. If they both smoke it will cost £354.80 each month.

Bupa offers critical illness cover to people aged between 18 and 59. Policies can run from five to 30 years or for whole of life, these continue for the rest of your life. For example, a female non-smoking solicitor aged 45 with three children could take out a whole of life policy worth £100,000 with Bupa for £78.53 per month. This also gives each child £15,000 cover.

CHILDREN

Companies such as Abbey Life, Norwich Union and Friends Provident offer benefit.

■ Information sheets on critical illness income protection can be obtained from The Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ. Send sae.

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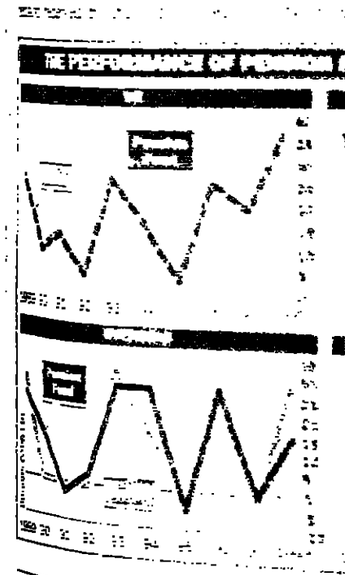
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Caroline Merrell on the managers whose methods are hitting your pension

Why companies are leaving the big four

The Government may have reassured the nation that the basic state pension will remain available. But surviving on this pension alone would mean a penurious old age. As rule of thumb, you should save a percentage of your earnings equivalent to half your age to ensure a decent retirement income.

This means that, at 30, you should be saving 15 per cent of your salary, coincidentally the maximum amount that can be saved by members of company schemes under Revenue rules. Older workers must supplement their savings in other investments.

The younger you start saving for a pension, the better. The Prudential has calculated that a 25-year-old woman would need to save £200 a month if she wished to have a £10,000-a-year pension at 60, a sum that would not guarantee luxurious living. A 45-year-old woman who had delayed starting a pension would need to invest £800 a month.

You may think that membership of a company pension scheme would guarantee a decent standard of living in old age but there is no room for complacency, as there seems no guarantee that they can deliver investment performance. UK companies are reviewing the management of their pension schemes because of poor performance from some of the City's most established fund managers.

Zeneca, J Sainsbury and Unilever, who together employ more than 200,000 people, have all recently revealed that they plan to switch millions of pounds from PDFM, Mercury and Gartmore — three of the UK's biggest managers. It is not yet clear whether Carol Galley, of Mercury, will see any decrease in her earnings as a result. Last year she took home a salary package worth £6 million.

According to estimates, more than half of the £616 billion held in pension funds are managed by these three firms, together with Schroders.

The majority of the 11 million people in company pension schemes remain completely unaware of the intricacies of their scheme. And in any case, until recently the poor performance or otherwise of the investment companies managing billions of pounds' worth of pension money was not especially significant, as the size of the pension received by the individual tended to be linked to final salary. Now, however, more companies are switching to offering money-purchase schemes, where the size of the final pension is directly linked to the performance of the pension fund manager.

More than half the £616 billion is invested in the shares of UK companies, with the rest invested in gilts, property, overseas markets and cash. The majority of the eventual recipients of this money, thousands of pensioners who retire each year, will be unaware of how the money they have contributed has been invested over the years, and how their pension fund has performed in comparison to the average — information on performance is very difficult to get hold of. Despite the millions earned by fund managers, many produce performance that is only average or worse.

According to CAPS, which measures the performance of pension fund managers, the good managers produce returns that are 50 per cent better than the poor managers. For example, CAPS' latest statistics show that PDFM, one of the UK's biggest pension fund managers, produced a return of only 19.7 per cent over last year; this compares to the top fund managers where returns reached 30 per cent.

As our graphs show, on average pension fund managers only match the index, irrespective of where in the world they invest. Many managers do worse than the index.

The ability of pension fund managers is also important at a time when annuity rates, which actually dictate the monthly income taken by pensioners, are extremely low. The better the pension fund manager, the bigger the pension fund pot, and the greater the size of monthly income eventually received by the pensioner.

SIMON TOWNSLEY



Six-million pound lady: Carol Galley of Mercury

PDFM performance has been dented by a decision two and a half years ago to switch its clients' money into cash. This decision means that millions of people have missed out on two years of a roaring bull market in equities — so their pensions will be smaller.

Robin Hindle Fisher, PDFM director, says: The last three years have been a most difficult period. Value stocks have been out of favour. We are confident they will recover."

Despite the importance of competition between the money managers, in recent years more and more pension fund money has been managed by just four companies, PDFM, Schroders, Gartmore and Mercury. In fact, 80 per cent of all pension money is managed by just 14 per cent of pension fund managers.

According to the Pensions Management Institute (PMI), pension fund trustees are beginning to be more discerning about the companies that manage their cash. Trustees have to review pension scheme performance on a regular basis because of legislation enshrined in the Pensions Act. According to the PMI, these reviews are becoming more frequent, with pensions trustees becoming more questioning about the ability of big City companies to manage money efficiently.

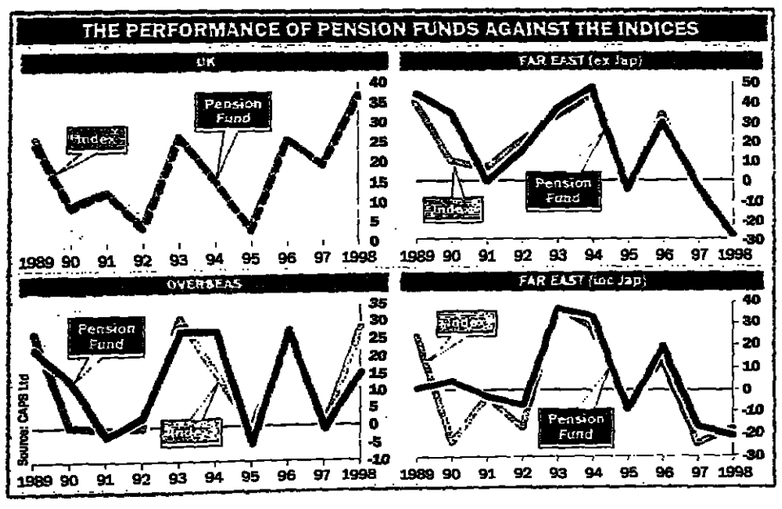
Zeneca, the drugs giant, revealed that it was planning to put up a proportion of its pension fund out to tender, following the advice of Watson Wyatt, its adviser. The latter has recently called into question the ability of the "big four" to manage money efficiently. According to research from Harvard University, the dominance of these companies means that any fundamental switch in investment policy — perhaps a switch from the blue chip companies — to smaller companies will distort the market and hit performance.

Ray Martin, Zeneca pensions manager, said: "We decided to put the money out to some of the smaller managers as part of a review of policy.

"We are questioning the big fund managers' ability to add value — it is constrained by their size." Pension fund performance is particularly important for Zeneca and the 16,000 members of its pension scheme.

According to Mr Martin, the scheme is in deficit by 12 per cent — this means that according to present actuarial valuations it cannot meet its liabilities. Mr Martin pointed out that the only thing that had rescued the performance of its pension assets last year was the decision taken by Zeneca itself to hedge the fund against currency losses — not a great endorsement of the skills of Mercury, Schroder and PDFM, the three managers of the pension scheme.

The millions of people who are members of occupational schemes must rely on their pension fund trustees to provide them with information about how their schemes are doing. The trustees may well subscribe to surveys provided by the two pension statistics companies, CAPS and the WM Company. Comparative statistics are not available to those who do not subscribe to the services.



It's never too early to check your worth

Finding out that your pension money has not performed well at the point of retirement is too late. The 11 million members of company pension schemes should ensure that they have an idea what they can expect at retirement a long time before they actually retire. If the performance seems to be flagging, then seek the advice of the trustees. Since the introduction of the Pensions Act, more employees have become involved in being trustees of company pension schemes.

It is necessary in any case to check on the progress of the pension regularly, as the surveys show that the majority of people do not make adequate provisions for their retirement.

Recent changes to the taxation of all pension funds could mean that greater contributions from employees will eventually be necessary. People who do not have enough provision should consider taking out an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) plan — all company schemes have to offer this facility.

They could also consider taking out a plan with a new provider. Employees with a personal pension who suddenly become eligible for a company scheme should consider turning their personal pension into an AVC.

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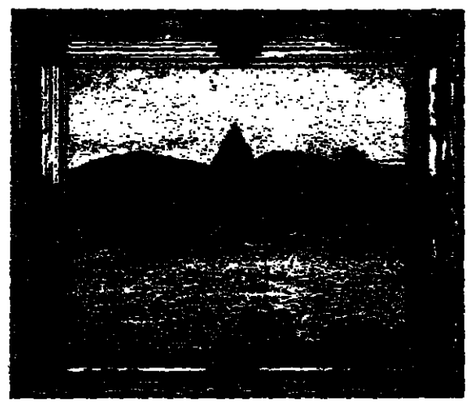
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Brokers have likened investing without knowing when futures contracts are expiring to sailing into a fog bank

How to avoid storms in futures trading

Patrick Collinson on when it is best to stay tied up and out of the market

Are small investors getting a raw deal when they buy and sell shares on the stock market? Rogue price movements have made share prices quoted in newspapers frequently unreliable, and small investors can unwittingly sail into a futures trading storm while bigger investors steer clear.

Futures and options are the Wild West frontier of investment, and although they can offer spectacular returns, they can also produce spectacular losses. Put simply, they are a gambleon what the price of an asset will be at a specified future date. The asset can be something real such as a cocoa bean or copper, to more intangible things such as the FTSE 100 index.

Financial futures have been one of the fastest growing areas of futures trading, with the monthly FTSE 100 contract the most popular of the many traded on the floor of the futures exchange, called Liffe. Traders take a punt on what level the FTSE will be in either a month or three months. They take on a future obligation to buy or sell the index agreed with another trader. When trhe contract expires, if they market has moved in the direction they guessed they make a profit. If the market has moved against them, they make a loss.

With options, traders pay a small deposit, known as a premium, which gives them the right to buy or sell at a certain price on a certain day, but they can decide not to exercise their option if the market has moved against them. In this case they simply lose their deposit.The biggest problem for small investors is rogue prices stemming from wide spreads — the difference between the buying and selling price of a share.

A multimillion-pound electronic trading system, called Sets, unveiled by the London Stock Exchange last October, has improved spreads for much of the trading day, but is blamed for bizarre price gyrations in the final half-hour, which are then published as closing prices in newspapers the following day.

Leading private client stockbrokers are warning clients not to trade in the first 45 minutes when the London stock market opens at 8.30am or in the final half hour before closing at 4.30pm. Investors are also being told to avoid trading on mid-month "double-witching" days when FTSE futures contracts expire and send the market into temporary turmoil.

Justin Urquhart-Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers said: "You can read prices in a newspaper which, through no fault of the newspaper, are completely inaccurate because dealing in the stock could have occurred in the last half-hour at prices which are nowhere near the proper value of the stock quoted during the day."

The London Stock Exchange admits that there is a problem with closing prices, which is simply the last trade executed on the automatic order book. "The closing price has, on occasion, exhibited significant movement from the price only minutes earlier, even on the back of relatively small traded volumes. This price may be misunderstood by a casual observer, particularly when the price returns to its previous level on commencing trading the next morning," it said.

In December just two traders at JP Morgan, the giant US investment bank, were able to push the FTSE 100 index down sharply in the last few minutes of trading by dumping Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham shares to boost profits on a separate FTSE options contract. The traders were caught red-handed and JP Morgan was fined £350,000, but the incident highlighted the shortcomings of Sets.

The Stock Exchange is now in discussions with leading market players to remedy the problem of opening and closing prices, and an announcement of changes to Sets is expected in the next ten days. But many traders say the problem of wide spreads and rogue prices is not confined just to the start and end of the day. One said: "Spreads have definitely got worse. You can see Glaxo on a spread of 1p then see it widen to 20p. EMI, for example, is trading right now on a spread of 535p/536p, but in a moment it might be 520p/535p."

When spreads widen, traders avoid Sets and go via the traditional market maker to get a better price. To make sure that small investors do not buy or sell when spreads are temporarily wide, Mr Urquhart-Stewart advises them to ask their broker what the spread is: ask if it is the "normal" spread and set price limits for the share you are buying or selling.

Fortunately many small investors have avoided the Sets teething problems because it initially has excluded trades below £4,000. The best option for small investors is simply not to trade on such days, according to Mr Urquhart-Stewart. "You can have the double-witching hour, with futures and options maturing at the same time. You have very large trades going through and the stock market goes bungee jumping. Anyone trading for private clients is in a very dangerous trading time."

The 91-point dive in the FTSE 100 on Monday of this week was partly the result of the April FTSE futures contract expiring, and stockbrokers now mark the monthly expiry dates in their diaries as firmly as the Bank of England interest rate meetings. The most significant FTSE futures contracts are on a one-month forward basis, expiring mid-month. For example, the May contract will expire on Friday June 19.

Mr Urquhart-Stewart said: "Brokers see these contract dates as important as a major company reporting its results. But small investors could see themselves sailing straight into a fog bank."

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The cure for a dizzy spell

Caroline Merrell says guaranteed returns give security when markets wobble

PEP FILE



CHOO YOUN-KONG

The civil insurrection in Indonesia has started to make some investors a little jumpy

Investment products that guarantee to pay back the initial investment at the end of a fixed period are becoming increasingly popular as uncertainty about the levels of the UK stock market begins to grow.

UK share prices have climbed 17 per cent since the beginning of the year, driven by bid speculation and merger mania. The market has also been pushed ever higher as private investors pile into personal equity plans (Peps) before they vanish next year.

The dizzy five-month rise is on top of the 20 per cent increase in UK shares last year. In fact, the stock market has risen almost continuously since 1994 — even the economic ills of the Far East have so far failed to make any particular impact.

However, the past week has seen some sudden falls on Wall Street and in London. A US Government action to try to break up Microsoft's monopoly on the PC market, coupled with civil insurrection in Indonesia, has begun to make some investors a little jumpy. Scottish Equitable, the life insurance company, recently announced that it planned to put some of its pension fund money into cash, because it felt that markets were too high.

Financial companies, swift to spot a marketing opportunity, have in the past few weeks begun to launch guaranteed products. These give investors the security of knowing they can get their money back provided they hold the investments for a specified period, usually five or six years.

If the stock market rises over that time, they will usually get a percentage of the rise in the market, or they could get the entire rise in the market minus the amount that is paid out in dividends. The products can either be based on Peps, where capital gains and income are free of tax, or on life insurance bonds, which are taxed within the fund, meaning that basic-rate taxpayers do not have to pay tax on any income generated by the products. Those offering the guaranteed products include ScotAm, Legal & General, and HSBC.

Scottish Amicable, the life insurance company owned by Prudential, this week unveiled a new product — the guaranteed peak bond — that will pay back the capital at the end of six years.

If the stock market falls continually from day one of the investment, then the investor will receive the original sum. All that is lost is the interest that could have been earned by putting the sum on deposit.

If, on the hand, the UK stock market rises at all, then the bond will lock in the gain. The gains are locked in by calculating, on a daily basis, the average value of the FTSE 100 over the previous 12 months, excluding the yield. The bond guarantees 100 per cent of the growth between the highest smoothed level in the first year, and the highest smoothed level over the term of the bond.

If the product is cashed in early, then the investor will get the value of the investment back, which could be less than the original capital. The upside is also limited to double the original investment. Obviously, in the last five years, the UK stock market has more than doubled, but any investment in an index tracking fund five years ago would not carry the same capital-back guarantee.

Jason Hollands, of BESt Investment, said that he thought the product in theory seemed to be a good idea for risk-averse investors. In effect, the cost of the guarantee is the yield on the index, which is linked to interest rates.

He said: "Interest rates are very low at the moment, and they could go lower, with the approach of economic and monetary union." Interest rates in Europe are lower than in the UK.

The bond carries a 5 per cent initial charge, and no other charges. People who invest in the first 18 days of the offer period will receive a 0.25 per cent enhancement on their investments. The offer period starts on June 1. Investors who put in more than £20,000 will receive a bonus of 0.25 per cent.

Charles Levett Scrivener, of Towry Law, said: "The daily lock-in is a nice concept, although the derivative that buys the guarantee will come at a price, and it is very difficult to know whether the price is fair value." He said that investors who believe the market is going to continue rising should not buy the product. The best circumstances for it would be a fall in the market over the next 12 months followed by rises for the next five.

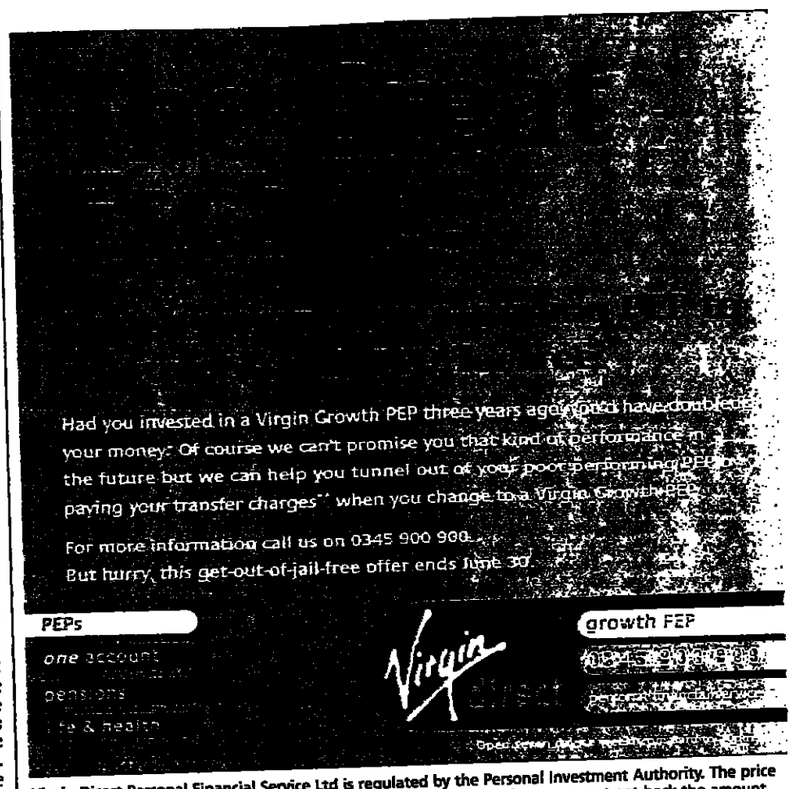
Legal & General is also offering a guaranteed Pep product, where returns are based on the growth of four indices over a six-and-a-quarter-year period. The Pep qualifies for both general and single company Pep status, which means investors can put away a total of £9,000 tax-free, if they have not yet used up their Pep allowances. There is a guaranteed return of capital. The company is a new listing which means that the charges are not quite as explicit as the charges on other Peps. However, Mr Levett Scrivener says charges are about 5 per cent initial and 0.6 per cent annually, which is reasonably priced.

He said: "What I do like about it is that it does have a spread on major European markets. It is also currency-neutral. They have bought the guarantees in sterling. If the euro is strong you will not gain, if it is weak, then you will not lose."

Other European funds will be subject to the currency risk of sterling falling or rising against the euro. Investors will get 140 per cent of the rise in the market between the first year and the final year, the rise being based on the average prices achieved by the indices in the first year, and the average prices in the final one.

This is in contrast to the Scottish Amicable product, where the highest prices are used. Again the product will perform best if the market falls in first year, and then rises. Towry Law is recommending the product.

HSBC is also poised to launch another guaranteed Pep. This is expected to use changes in the Budget to allow investors to save £17,500 free of capital gains tax.



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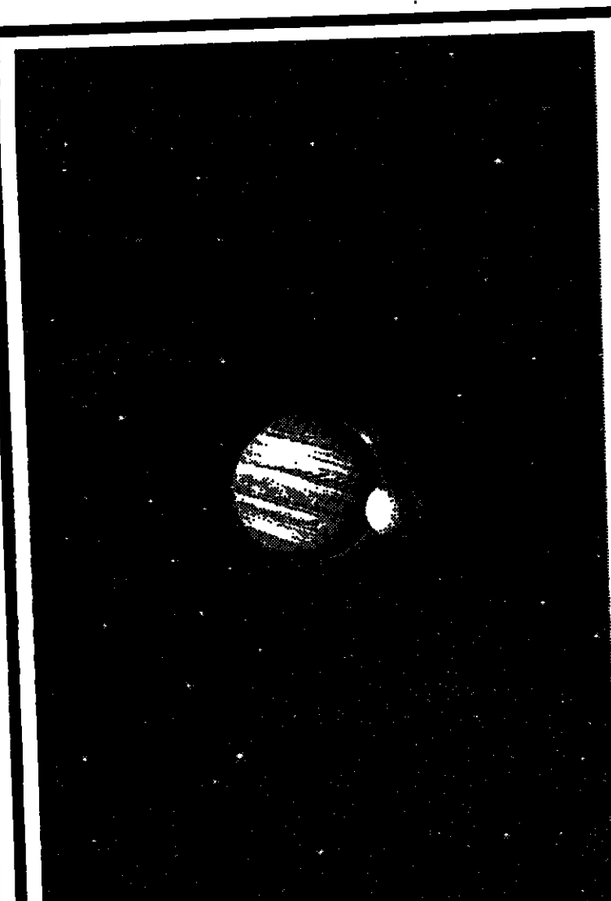
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■ Tesco Personal Finance launched Tesco Loans this week, offering interest rates from as low as 10.9 per cent APR. Customers can apply for loans of between £1,000 and £15,000 and monthly repayments are guaranteed not to increase for the duration of the loan. Customers will also be given 1,000 free Clubcard points when they take out a loan. There are no arrangment or early repayment fees. Call 0800 406050.

■ Barclaycard has joined forces with Eastern Group, the gas and electricity supplier, to provide a new service exclusively for its customers. Barclaycard members who switch to Eastern Group for their gas and electricity will be able to pay their bills on a monthly basis, and achieve energy bill savings, by using their credit card. The launch is planned for September.

■ In response to growing investor interest in the new individual savings accounts which the Government will introduce in April 1999, Chase de Vere Investments, the independent financial adviser, has published a free guide detailing the main proposals and prospective rules. It answers key questions such as what shall I do with my Peps and Tessas, where will I get my Isa, and what tax relief will I get? For a copy, call Chase de Vere on 0800 805806.

■ A range of booklets on unit trusts and investment funds is available free from Autif. *The Managers* lists Autif's member companies, and provides information on the funds managed and minimum levels for savings plans and lump sum investments. *The Handbook* points out the do's and "don'ts to consider and *The Directory*, to be used in conjunction with this booklet, helps investors to choose the funds that best meet their needs. Available by calling 0181-207 1361.

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Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct 4	60 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Woolwich (Via Branch)	Premier Fixed Rt	28.2.99	£10,000	8.00F	OM

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Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.69%NC	8.60%N	Nil

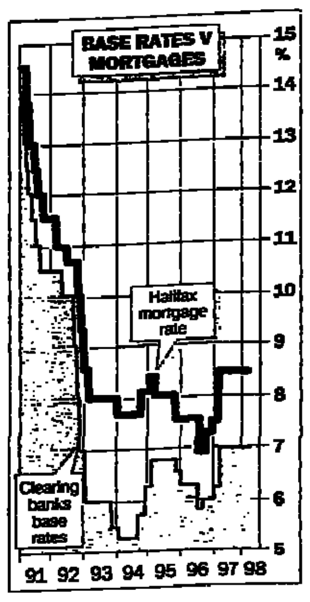
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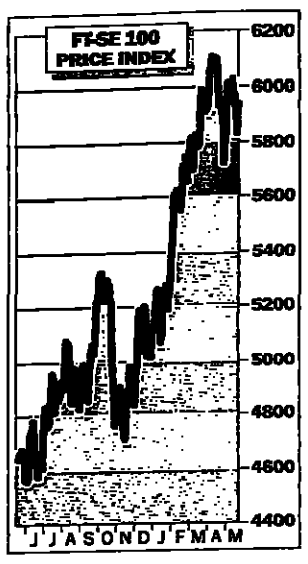
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	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*•	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499**†	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*•	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond•	6.50	5.20	3.90	1-250k**		0645 645000
46th Issue Cert†‡	4.80			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00			25-1,000	8day	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond•	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked†‡	2.25			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5•	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000•	60day	0645 645000

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 * Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years ‡0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ *£100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings *Taxable but cred in full ¹ £500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Legal & General...Level	£ 8,520	£ 9,563	£10,879
Equitable Life.......Level	£ 8,512	£ 9,531	£10,928
Canada Life ....Level	£ 8,418	£ 9,511	£10,997
Standard Life ....Level	£ 8,336	£ 9,440	£10,880
Sun Life ....Level	£ 8,289	£ 9,428	£10,961

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£7,753	£ 8,595	£ 9,808
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,810	£ 8,552	£ 9,622
Norwich Union .....Level	£7,646	£ 8,403	£ 9,621
Generali ....Level	£7,627	£ 8,380	£ 9,460
Scottish Widows ..Level	£7,590	£ 8,320	£ 9,390

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,435	£8,021	£ 8,842
Prudential ....Level	£7,309	£7,832	£ 8,603
Legal & General...Level	£7,254	£7,827	£ 8,629
Norwich Union .....Level	£7,213	£7,779	£ 8,523
Stalwart ....Level	£7,203	£7,741	£ 8,459

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at May 21, 1998

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.05
10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50
2 Years		
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
15,000	AIG Life	6.02
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
40,000	AIG Life	6.14
3 Years		
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.00
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
4 Years		
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.90
50,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
5 Years		
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.75
50,000	Hambro Assured	5.80

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-493 7900. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	132.00	7.10	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	160.50	7.24	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	179.25	7.25	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	180.25	7.21	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	171.50	7.07	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	163.75	7.18	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	188.00	7.11	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	155.25	6.92	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	182.25	6.93	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	185.50	6.94	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	166.00	7.08	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	121.00	7.23	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	157.25	7.63	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	193.25	7.05	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	183.75	7.28	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	174.75	7.22	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source:* Greenwich NatWest



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812812	0.00	no max	95	0% for 2 mths, 2% disc 10 mths
Northern Rock¹ 0845 6050500	3.89	to £250k	95	Fixed to 1.9.00 £395 fee
Bank of Ireland 0800 109010	4.25	£200-500k	75	Fixed to 1.6.00
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.85	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1.7.00 0.5% fee, £300 max
Bristol & West 0800 119955	4.89	No max	90	Fixed to 1.6.00 £295 fee

NB. ¹ compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812812	0.00	any	95	0%-2 mths, 2% disc-10 mths
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-175k	95	8% disc-6 mths, more dscs apply
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.99	to £250k	95	Fixed for 1 yr 0.75% fee
Leeds & Holbeck¹ 08000 725726	*1.45*	*to £180k*	95	*7% dsc-6 mths, more discs apply.*
Staffordshire 01902 317485	2.25	to £250k	90	6% disc-1.6.99 £275 fee

NB. ¹ Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	no max	95	Fix to 1.6.99 £295 fee
Wesleyan Home Lns 0121 2003003	5.35	to £100k	95	3.25% disc- 1 year
Halifax 01422 333333	5.65	no max	95	Fixed to 31.8.00 £195 fee
Alliance & Leic¹ 0345 108108	5.85	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.7.00 £150 fee
Sun Banking 01438 744559	5.75	£25-125k	95	Fixed to 30.6.00, 7.99-07.02,£495²

NB. ¹ Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.²fee
Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482).

Up to 7.85% gross p.a. variable
Leading one year rates, fixed or variable option bond.
CALL FREE 24 HRS QUOTE REF: J2305S
0800 20 21 21 BRISTOL & WEST
http: www.bristol-west.co.uk
We specialise in mortgages, savings, investments and nothing else.
One Year Option Bond minimum investment £5,000. 7.85% gross p.a. variable for 12 months paid on investments of £250,000+. Interest paid monthly or on maturity. Bristol & West plc. Registered in England No. 2124201. Registered Office: PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS99 7AX.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE
0131 339 9191

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	632.00	668.80	+ 4.70	...
UK Equity	900.50	953.00	+ 7.90	...
Property	484.50	512.80	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	378.90	401.00	+ 1.50	...
Money	287.80	304.60	+ 0.20	...
International	532.40	563.40	+ 4.00	...

ABBEY LIFE
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL
01202 292373

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Custodian S4	233.20	245.50	+ 1.20	...
Ethical S4	209.70	220.80	+ 2.50	...
International S4	349.30	362.50	+ 2.50	...
Protected Gth S4	136.20	143.40	+ 0.60	...
Asian Pacific	143.40	151.00	- 0.70	...
European S4	336.00	353.70	+ 6.80	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	465.00	489.50	+ 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	356.80	375.60	- 0.10	...
Man Ser 4	959.90	1010.50	+ 2.50	...
Conv Ser 4	377.70	397.60	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	377.30	397.20	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	465.00	489.50	+ 3.00	...
American Ser 4	943.20	992.90	+ 2.60	...
High Inc Ser 4	1106.50	1164.80	+ 3.90	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	271.00	285.30	+ 1.90	...
Japan Ser 4	242.50	255.30	+ 3.20	...
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	924.40	978.30	+16.50	...
British Fund	973.70	1030.40	+ 5.20	...
International	821.90	869.80	+ 8.10	...
Dollar Fund	780.10	825.60	+ 2.30	...
Capital Fund	770.80	815.70	- 7.90	...
Income Fund	1209.80	1280.30	+ 6.70	...
Property Series A	597.10	631.90	...	4.70
Property Units	999.50	1049.50		
Financial Fund	1183.50	1252.40	+20.10	...
Managed Ser A	840.80	889.80	+ 8.30	...
Managed Units	1524.00	1604.30	-15.10	...
High Yield Fund	1082.30	1145.30	+ 3.20	...
Money Series A	334.00	353.50	+ 0.40	...
Money Units	448.60	472.30	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund	984.80	1042.30	-10.50	...
Fixed Interest	497.20	526.20	+ 4.20	...
Indexed Secs	233.80	247.50	+ 2.30	...
European Fund	1418.30	1500.90	+38.00	...
Natural Res	259.70	274.90	- 3.80	...
Far East Fund	449.60	475.80	- 0.50	...
Smaller Cos	829.70	877.00	-15.30	...
Special Sits	901.10	953.60	+13.80	...
Man Currency	301.00	318.60	- 0.80	...
Japanese Tech	237.40	251.30	- 2.00	...
US Smaller Cos	555.40	587.80	-12.00	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	284.50	299.50	+ 0.40	...
Financial Ser 1	97.00	102.20	- 1.60	...
Fixed Interest	419.60	441.70	+ 3.80	...
Gold	66.90	70.50	- 0.90	...
Managed	918.00	966.40	+ 9.40	...
Mngd Growth	296.00	311.60	+ 2.60	...
Property	404.10	427.50	...	...
Residential Prop	125.90	132.60	...	...
TSB American	443.90	467.30	+ 1.00	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1494.60	1573.30	+12.50	...
TSB European	518.60	545.90	+11.60	...
TSB Income	697.20	733.90	+ 3.50	...
TSB Intl	620.30	653.00	+ 5.60	...
TSB Pacific	309.40	326.30	+ 0.90	...

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL
01793 514514

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Dep Acc	432.30	455.10	+ 0.60	...
Equity Acc	2223.60	2340.70	+21.80	...
Property Acc	792.70	834.50	+ 1.10	...
Far East Acc	233.50	245.80	+ 1.30	...
Managed Capital	753.50	793.20	+ 6.50	...
-do- Acc	1659.50	1746.90	+14.90	...
Overseas Acc	1661.60	1749.10	+15.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	656.50	691.20	+ 5.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	1547.00	1629.00	- 6.20	...
Amer Man Acc	642.50	676.30	- 2.90	...
Amer Prop Acc	131.70	138.70	- 1.00	...
Distribution Bonds	29.70	31.30	+ 0.20	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks
01494 463463

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Reserve Ser 6	195.10	205.40	+ 0.60	...
Baked Ser 6	1096.50	1154.50	+ 8.40	...
Opportunity Ser 6	260.30	274.00	+ 2.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	119.60	125.90	+ 0.70	5.86
UK Equities Ser 6	1720.90	1811.50	-14.70	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1832.20	1928.70	-14.20	...
North Amer Ser 6	767.80	808.20	- 2.70	...
Far East Ser 6	423.70	446.10	- 1.30	...
Europe Ser 6	749.30	788.70	-15.90	...
Intnl Ser 6	805.10	847.50	+ 4.70	...
Property Ser 6	645.50	682.70	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	556.20	585.50	+ 3.70	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	232.50	244.80	+ 1.50	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	343.80	361.90	+ 0.30	...

BARCLAYS LIFE
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB
0181 534 5544

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc	1484.60	1562.80	+ 9.70	...
-do- Initial	867.40	913.10	+ 3.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	522.30	549.70	+ 3.50	...
-do- Initial	307.80	324.00	+ 1.10	...
International Acc	534.40	562.60	+ 5.80	...
-do- Initial	313.00	329.50	+ 2.40	...
Managed Acc	803.00	845.40	+ 6.50	...
-do- Initial	472.30	497.10	+ 2.30	...
Money Acc	335.10	352.90	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	361.40	380.50	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	213.40	224.70		
America Acc	556.00	587.40	- 1.50	...
Far East Gwth	149.90	157.70	+ 1.30	...
Financial Acc	677.00	712.70	+ 3.20	...
500 Accum	661.60	696.50	+ 9.10	...
Japan Acc	177.20	186.60	+ 1.80	...
Income Acc	859.20	904.60	+ 2.60	...
Special Sits Acc	462.20	486.60	+ 0.30	...
Univ Tech Acc	228.10	240.20	+ 2.60	...

BLACK HORSE LIFE
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF
01634 834000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
The Managed Fd	1220.53	1220.53	+ 6.48	...
Income Fund	1242.22	1307.60	+ 0.07	...
Extra Income	1122.86	1181.96	- 1.93	...
Worldwide Gth	711.44	748.89	+ 4.83	...
Balanced Fund	1096.31	1154.02	+ 8.45	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1278.15	1345.43	+21.17	...
N Amer & Genrl	663.15	698.06	+ 2.40	...
Pacific Basin	267.97	282.08	- 1.86	...
German Growth	419.89	441.99	- 9.01	...
Japan Growth	130.81	137.70	+ 2.12	...
The UK Gth Fd	356.06	374.80	+ 2.11	...
Cont Euro Gth	248.69	261.78	+ 0.73	...
Property Fund	464.36	488.80	- 0.98	...
Fixed Interest	433.09	455.89	+ 1.55	...
Cash Fund	323.33	340.35	- 0.21	...
Managed Inv	719.64	757.52	+ 3.76	...
Nth Amer Recov	394.76	415.54	- 5.22	...

BRITANNIA
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR
0141 248 2000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Measured Perf	254.50	269.30	...	...
Performance Plus	305.90	323.60	+ 2.40	...
With Profit Perf	204.80	216.70	+ 0.30	...
UK Opportunity	350.60	370.90	- 1.40	...
Euro Opportunity	413.00	436.90	+ 7.60	...
North Amer Opp	333.30	352.70	- 1.80	...
Far East Opp	168.10	177.90	- 0.10	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	191.00	201.10	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	252.60	267.20	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int	269.20	284.80	+ 1.40	...
Cash	182.40	192.90	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	352.50	373.00	+ 2.70	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	533.00	561.10	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	1060.60	1116.50	- 4.20	...
Property	348.60	367.00	+ 0.30	...
Money Market	289.00	304.30	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	391.10	411.70	+ 2.00	...
Japan	260.90	274.60	+ 1.60	...
North America	296.60	312.30	- 1.60	...
International	544.70	573.40	+ 4.20	...
European	528.30	556.00	+ 9.70	...
Far East	124.50	131.10	- 0.10	...

CANADA LIFE
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
01707 51122

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	496.50	522.70	+ 0.90	...
Property	319.30	336.10	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	309.20	325.50	+ 1.50	...
Equity	636.20	669.70	- 0.80	...
Cash	246.00	259.00	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mngd	651.30	685.60	+13.40	...
CLife Intl Fd	422.00	444.30	+ 4.40	...
Managed Fund	1060.10	1115.90	+ 2.00	...
Property Fund	640.70	674.40	+ 0.70	...
Equity Fund	1570.00	1652.60	- 2.10	...
Gilt Edged Fd	797.70	839.70	+ 3.90	...
Deposit Fund	379.60	399.60	...	...
Investment Fd	710.00	745.50	+ 1.40	...
International	671.70	707.10	+ 7.00	...
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2497.40	2628.80	+27.10	...
Merc European	728.10	766.40	+11.60	...
Merc Fxd Int	657.70	692.30	+ 6.10	...
Gtd Money	383.90	404.10	+ 0.40	...
Mercury Intl Mgd	909.90	989.20	+ 3.10	...
Merc Int Fxd Int	398.70	419.60	+ 5.90	...
Mercury Japan	196.00	206.30	- 0.10	...
Merc Nth Amer	582.80	613.40	- 1.30	...
UK Property	532.00	560.00	+ 1.60	...
Merc Multip Inv	1501.40	1580.40	+14.70	...

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	226.40	238.40	...	...
Managed Fund	978.50	1030.00	+ 2.40	...
Equity Fund	629.50	662.70	- 0.60	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290866

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	435.90	458.90	+ 2.80	...
Ruby	240.00	252.70	+ 2.70	...
Emerald	181.90	191.50	+ 1.10	...
Equity	553.40	582.60	+ 4.70	...
Property	266.20	280.30	+ 1.00	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	271.20	285.50	+ 2.00	...
Indexed Secs	215.60	227.00	+ 1.90	...
Cash	215.10	226.50	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	436.20	459.20	- 5.90	...
Far East	231.60	243.80	- 0.20	...
International	329.40	346.80	+ 0.60	...
Special Sits	619.80	652.50	+12.70	...
Intl Income	521.40	548.90	+ 4.90	...
European	659.40	694.20	+ 7.00	...
Japanese	94.70	99.70	- 0.10	...
SE Asia	291.10	306.50	- 0.10	...
With Profits Res	203.50	214.30	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	203.50	214.30	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	521.70	549.20	+ 3.40	...
Equity	711.10	748.60	+ 4.30	...
Property	254.50	267.90	+ 0.90	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	362.10	381.20	+ 3.20	...
Index Linked	235.10	247.50	+ 2.50	...
Cash	301.00	316.90	+ 0.40	...
Nth American	559.30	588.80	- 7.50	...
Far East Acc	236.20	248.70	- 0.50	...
International Acc	417.20	439.20	+ 2.60	...
Special Sits	959.50	1010.10	+21.00	...
European Flex	991.70	1044.10	+21.00	...

COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
(Units) Key:	302.44	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker ‡	478.09	...	...	...
-do- Cash	230.57	242.71	+ 0.19	...
-do- Equity	880.85	927.21	-10.36	...
-do- Fxd Int	465.91	490.43	- 0.41	...
-do- Managed	609.22	639.18	- 0.40	...
-do- Property	484.23	509.72	+ 3.91	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	222.27	233.98	+ 0.13	...
-do- Cash Inv	367.36	386.70	+ 0.47	...
-do- Equity Cap	2318.43	2440.47	+23.74	...
-do- Equity Inv	3831.71	4033.39	+41.93	...
-do- Fixed Cap	502.65	529.12	+ 3.81	...
-do- Fixed Inv	830.74	874.47	+ 6.87	...
-do- Index Cap	242.12	254.88	+ 1.98	...
-do- Index Inv	400.16	421.23	+ 3.54	...
-do- Mngd Cap	896.86	944.07	+ 9.58	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1482.25	1560.28	+16.88	...

COMMERCIAL UNION
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Var Ann Acc (S) ‡	1348.40	...	-14.93	...
Var Ann (S) ‡	142.43	...	- 1.37	...
Prime: Managed	608.10	640.20	+ 4.60	...
Prime: UK Equity	839.30	883.50	+ 4.50	...
Prime: Int Equity	394.00	414.80	+ 5.40	...
Prime: Property	286.20	301.30	+ 0.10	...
Prime: Fxd Int	294.40	309.90	+ 1.80	...
Prime Index-Lnk	214.60	225.90	+ 1.70	...
Prime: Cash	236.20	248.70	+ 0.20	...

CONFEDERATION LIFE
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
01438 744840

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	1640.90	1727.20	+18.40	...
Equity II	2630.20	2768.60	+16.30	...

EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ.
01242 221311

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (S&6) ‡	122.50	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	115.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	145.80	...	+ 0.60	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	147.40	...	+ 0.60	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	135.80	...	+ 1.40	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	117.60	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	356.10	374.90	+ 1.50	...
Managed S1	349.70	368.20	+ 1.30	...
Adventurous S1	278.00	292.70	+ 2.90	...
Managed (2)	238.30	250.90	+ 1.00	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	473.60	490.80	+ 2.40	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	124.00	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	117.10	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed (2) ‡	149.50	...	+ 0.70	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	153.90	...	+ 0.80	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	138.80	...	+ 1.20	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	119.90	...	+ 0.30	...

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH
01722 413366

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	477.80	503.00	+ 4.10	...
UK Equity	689.70	726.10	+ 4.80	...
Stewardship	567.30	597.10	+ 8.00	...
Overseas Equity	434.50	457.40	+ 4.80	...
North American	275.50	290.00	+ 0.40	...
Pacific Basin	117.20	123.40	+ 0.80	...
European	490.00	515.80	+13.60	...
Property	216.70	228.20	- 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	312.20	328.70	+ 1.50	...
Index Linked	215.00	226.40	+ 1.60	...
Cash	232.80	245.10	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	691.10	727.40	+ 5.20	...
Managed	1086.20	1143.30	+ 9.30	...
Deposit	398.70	419.60	+ 0.40	...
Property	603.70	635.40	+ 0.60	...
American	782.30	823.40	+ 1.10	...
Australian	661.90	696.70	- 2.20	...
European	1233.60	1298.50	+38.80	...
Income Acc	1260.00	1326.30	+ 0.60	...
-do- Dist	682.70	718.60	+ 0.30	3.97
International	466.20	490.70	+ 5.20	...
Japan Smaller	251.80	265.00	- 1.00	...
Singapore & Mal	258.10	271.60	+ 3.00	...
Tokyo Fund	529.20	557.00	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	966.50	1017.30	+ 0.70	...
CCM Vangd Mg	1150.30	1210.80	+ 8.20	...

GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GT Plan Far East	225.00	236.90	+ 1.10	...
GT Plan Wwide	627.40	660.50	+ 4.30	...

GAN LIFE & PENSIONS
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Portfolio Acc	931.40	931.40	+ 6.10	...
-do- Inv A	931.30	980.40	+ 6.40	...
UK Equity	652.20	686.70	+ 4.80	...
Gilt Plus	252.90	266.30	+ 1.40	...
Managed	427.10	449.70	+ 3.00	...

GENERAL ACCIDENT
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	314.30	330.70	+ 2.50	...
Unitised Profit	174.40	183.60	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	493.40	519.30	+ 2.90	...
Fixed Int	248.70	261.70	+ 1.90	...
Index-Linked	207.70	218.50	+ 1.80	...
Cash Deposit	199.80	210.30	+ 0.20	...
Property	213.60	224.80	+ 0.20	...
International	244.90	257.70	+ 1.90	...
American	313.60	330.00	- 0.30	...
Japan	165.70	174.40	- 2.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	172.40	181.40	+ 0.60	...
European	332.30	349.70	+ 8.90	...
Pacific Fund	179.70	189.10	- 0.20	...
Conv Life	205.00	215.70	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	718.30	756.10	+ 5.60	...
Managed Initial	432.80	455.60	+ 3.10	...
Equity Ord	1248.50	1314.20	+ 7.30	...
Equity Init	752.30	792.00	+ 4.00	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	253.30	266.60	+ 2.20	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	159.40	167.80	+ 1.30	...
Overs Equity Ord	499.40	526.20	+ 6.20	...
Overs Equity Init	301.20	317.10	+ 3.90	...
Property Ord	332.10	349.60	+ 0.20	...
Property Init	200.10	210.60	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	364.00	383.20	+ 2.90	...
Fixed Int Init	219.30	230.80	+ 1.50	...
Deposit Ord	238.50	251.10	+ 0.30	...
Deposit Initial	143.70	151.30	...	...

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Ass Prop Bds	991.50	1032.80	...	...
Managed Initial	657.60	692.20	+ 4.10	...
-do- Acc	1007.60	1060.70	+ 6.30	...
Equity Initial	1110.20	1168.60	+ 4.20	...
-do- Acc	1701.10	1790.60	+ 6.50	...
Fixed Int Initial	540.00	568.40	+ 4.00	...
-do- Acc	827.30	870.90	+ 6.10	...
Intl Initial	579.80	610.30	+ 5.50	...
-do- Acc	888.30	935.10	+ 8.40	...
Nth Amer Initial	334.60	352.20	- 1.70	...
-do- Acc	466.60	491.10	- 2.30	...
Pacific Initial	142.90	150.40	- 0.70	...
-do- Acc	197.40	207.80	- 0.90	...
Property Initial	204.60	215.30	...	...
-do- Acc	313.50	329.90	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	190.90	200.90	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc	266.20	280.20	+ 1.90	...
Deposit Initial	213.20	224.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	326.70	343.90	+ 0.30	...
Euro Initial	186.30	196.10	+ 5.20	...
-do- Acc	240.00	252.70	+ 6.70	...

HALIFAX LIFE LTD
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Life Funds				
Foundation	38.80	40.84	+ 0.17	...
Balanced	38.68	40.72	+ 0.26	...
Opportunity	39.84	41.94	+ 0.15	...
Deposit	27.27	28.71	+ 0.04	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	31.07	32.71	+ 0.18	...
Balanced S2	31.17	32.81	+ 0.20	...
Opportunity S2	30.71	32.33	+ 0.15	...
Deposit S2	25.83	27.19	+ 0.04	...

HAMBRO ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 848000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	255.40	268.80	+ 0.50	...
-do- Pens	341.30	359.20	+ 0.80	...
UK Equity	302.00	317.80	+ 0.50	...
-do- Pens	386.50	406.80	+ 0.70	...
International	199.30	209.70	+ 0.70	...
-do- Pens	226.50	238.40	+ 0.70	...
Deposit	160.50	168.90	+ 0.20	...
-do- Pens	198.40	208.80	+ 0.20	...

For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance

IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 48181

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Global Managed	862.40	907.80	-10.00	...
Global Property	360.50	379.50	...	...
Global Fixed Int	672.50	707.90	- 3.50	...
Global Equity	954.60	1004.80	-12.50	...
Global Cash	246.20	259.20	+ 0.30	...

LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE
01273 824000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	206.30	217.20	+ 0.20	...
Brit Opps Inr	227.90	239.90	+ 1.10	...
-do- Acc	313.40	329.90	+ 1.40	...
Cash Initial	174.40	183.60	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	332.70	350.30	+ 0.50	...
Equity Initial	1058.90	1114.70	+ 3.60	...
-do- Acc	2019.90	2126.30	+ 6.80	...
Fixed Initial	410.30	431.90	+ 1.60	...
-do- Acc	782.60	823.80	+ 3.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	157.40	165.70	+ 1.40	...
-do- Acc	256.10	269.60	+ 2.30	...
Intl Initial	388.70	409.20	+ 2.30	...
-do- Acc	730.00	768.50	+ 4.30	...
Managed Initial	659.10	693.80	+ 3.00	...
-do- Acc	1257.20	1323.40	+ 5.70	...
Property Initial	242.90	255.70	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc	463.30	487.70	+ 0.70	...

LINCOLN
The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 208 200

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Units	£227.10	...	+238.00	...
Property Units	3370.10	3547.40	+ 1.70	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	9787.70	£103.00	-85.70	...
2nd Equity Acc	1068.30	1124.60	-11.70	...
2nd High Inc Ac	1011.70	1064.80	- 2.50	...
2nd Property Acc	301.60	317.40	+ 0.20	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	227.00	238.90	+ 1.10	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	677.50	713.00	+ 5.90	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	308.00	324.10	+ 2.70	...
2nd Deposit Acc	326.00	343.10	+ 0.30	...
2nd Gilt Acc	391.00	411.40	+ 2.30	...
2nd Amer Acc	1168.00	1229.30	+ 0.40	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	254.30	267.60	+ 1.60	...
2nd Index Acc	257.00	270.50	+ 1.70	...
2nd Far East Acc	235.50	247.80	+ 1.30	...
2nd Global Acc	210.10	221.00	+ 2.10	...
2nd Euro Acc	297.00	312.50	+ 5.80	...
2nd Japan Acc	111.50	117.30	- 0.40	...
2nd Int Gr Bd Acc	181.30	190.90	+ 1.10	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	198.90	209.20	+ 2.10	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	642.50	676.20	+ 0.30	...
Managed	609.00	640.90	+ 5.30	...
American	695.20	731.70	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity Fd	775.70	816.40	+ 8.50	...
Japan	122.80	129.20	+ 0.51	...
Index-Lkd	230.20	242.20	+ 1.50	...
High Yield	1405.70	1479.60	+ 3.50	...
Money	463.30	487.40	+ 0.40	...
International	472.10	496.90	+ 4.80	...
Perpetual Active	441.90	465.00	+ 3.90	...
Growth Acc	952.20	1002.20	+ 8.30	...
Gilt Edged	553.80	582.90	+ 3.30	...
European	271.00	285.20	+ 5.40	...
Far East	124.60	131.00	+ 0.70	...

LONDON LIFE
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL
0117 984 7777

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity ‡	1510.00	...	+19.00	...
Fixed Interest ‡	574.60	...	+ 4.40	...
Property ‡	515.90	...	+ 0.40	...
Deposit ‡	342.60	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed ‡	899.90	...	+ 9.70	...
Indexed Stock ‡	285.30	...	+ 2.30	...
International ‡	364.60	...	+ 4.10	...
Equity A ‡	348.60	...	+ 4.30	...
Fixed Int A ‡	253.70	...	+ 1.90	...
Property A ‡	225.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Deposit A ‡	200.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A ‡	291.10	...	+ 3.20	...
Index Stock A ‡	222.40	...	+ 1.80	...
International A ‡	226.70	...	+ 2.60	...
Equity P ‡	1364.30	...	+20.10	...
Fixed Int P ‡	801.30	...	+ 6.40	...
Property P ‡	391.90	...	- 0.20	...
Deposit P ‡	416.40	...	- 0.40	...
Mixed P ‡	869.80	...	+10.70	...
Index Stock P ‡	330.70	...	+ 2.70	...
International P ‡	452.10	...	+ 5.90	...

LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Trust Cap ‡	736.20	...	+ 8.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	1438.20	...	+17.10	...
Property Cap ‡	140.50	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	261.40	...	...	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	219.70	...	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	412.10	...	+ 2.00	...
Equity Cap ‡	476.20	...	+ 2.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	912.00	...	+ 6.30	...
Internatl Cap ‡	277.90	...	+ 1.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	525.20	...	+ 3.70	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	159.10	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	296.30	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	454.20	...	+ 2.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	865.40	...	+ 5.40	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	647.10	...	+ 4.00	...
Capital Growth ‡	2966.40	...	+21.10	...

M & G
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB
01245 266266

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Bond Acc	733.60	770.40	-10.40	...
Amer Rec Bond	841.50	883.70	-23.70	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	342.50	359.70	-16.40	...
Australasia Bd	284.90	299.30	- 3.70	...
Commodity Bond	331.60	348.20	- 4.80	...
Deposit Bond Acc	415.80	436.70	+ 0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	2376.20	2495.20	+ 0.70	...
European Bd Acc	779.50	818.50	+13.80	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1289.60	1354.20	+27.30	...
Gilt Bond Acc	581.60	610.80	+ 4.70	...
Gold Bond Acc	127.20	133.60	- 3.80	...
High Yield Bond	517.60	543.50	+ 4.60	...
Index-Lnk Gl Bd	261.30	274.40	+ 2.30	...
International Bd	1009.00	1059.60	+ 8.70	...
Japan Bond Acc	150.10	157.70	- 0.40	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	166.70	175.20	- 0.70	...
Managed Bonds	1298.10	1363.10	+14.10	...
Prop Bond Acc	637.70	669.70	- 0.10	...
Rec Bond Acc	1288.90	1353.40	+32.30	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	229.40	241.00	- 0.10	...

MGM ASSURANCE
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity	357.70	376.60	+ 2.00	...
UK Equity Acc	569.50	599.50	+ 3.60	...
Special Sits	150.90	158.90	+ 0.50	...
Special Sits Acc	240.40	253.10	+ 1.20	...
North American	300.40	316.30	+ 0.80	...
N American Acc	478.50	503.70	+ 1.70	...
Pacific Basin	251.10	264.40	+ 0.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	399.80	420.90	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Interest	330.70	348.20	+ 1.70	...
Fixed Interest Acc	527.30	555.10	+ 3.10	...
Property	203.90	214.70	+ 0.10	...
Property Acc	325.00	342.20	+ 0.30	...
Deposit	157.70	166.00	...	...
Deposit Acc	*251.50*	*264.80*	*+ 0.30*	...
Managed	363.50	382.70	+ 2.50	...
Managed Acc	533.20	561.30	+ 4.10	...

MERCHANT INVESTORS
St Bartholomew House, Lewins Mead
Bristol BS1 2NH
0117 9266 366

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property	495.20	521.20	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	611.50	643.60	- 0.40	...
Gilt Edged	810.80	853.40	+ 6.00	...
Interest Fund	463.10	487.40	+ 0.50	...
Managed Fd	704.60	741.60	+ 3.50	...
Intl Equity	802.20	844.40	+ 5.40	...
North American	367.80	387.10	- 4.10	...
Far East	342.20	360.20	+ 1.10	...
Intl Currency	284.80	299.70	+ 2.80	...

NPI
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH
0171 623 4200

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	724.30	762.40	+ 5.50	...
UK Equity	1097.80	1155.50	+ 8.40	...
Overseas Equity	603.10	634.80	+ 4.40	...
Americas	672.80	708.20	- 9.40	...
Far East	404.00	425.20	+ 1.20	...
Property	250.10	263.20	- 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	507.40	534.10	+ 3.60	...
Indexed Gilt	298.50	314.20	+ 2.60	...
Deposit	251.50	264.70	+ 0.30	...

NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ
0117 940 4040

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Growth Mgd Pens	205.60	216.20	+ 2.70	...

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP
01603 622200

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	2299.40	2420.40	+24.30	...
Equity Fund	5526.00	5816.80	-58.40	...
Property Fd	785.00	826.30	+ 2.30	...
Fixed Int Fd	801.40	843.60	+ 8.80	...
Deposit Fund	409.10	430.60	+ 0.40	...
Intl Fund	362.10	381.20	+ 4.30	...

OLD MUTUAL
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA
01256 768888

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fund Acc	482.40	508.90	+ 3.70	...
Fxd Interest Acc	319.80	337.40	+ 2.00	...
International Acc	350.90	370.20	+ 2.10	...
Managed Acc	323.60	341.40	+ 3.10	...
Property Acc	233.60	246.50	+ 0.40	...
Money Acc	176.60	186.30	+ 0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	272.70	287.70	+ 3.70	...
Japan Equity Acc	74.90	79.10	+ 0.20	...
N Amer Acc	304.80	321.60	- 0.60	...
Pacific Acc	93.60	98.80	+ 0.40	...
European Acc	372.90	393.40	+ 8.30	...

PEARL ASSURANCE
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Prop Dist	151.90	159.90	+ 0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	392.40	413.10	+ 0.40	...
Inv Equity	2167.30	2281.40	+14.80	...
Inv Managed	1360.20	1431.80	+10.70	...
Ret Managed	1593.00	1676.90	+12.80	...

PRUDENTIAL
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH
01189 578334

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	531.80	554.00	- 4.30	...

PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP
0171 548 3228

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	1206.20	1269.70	+ 7.50	...
Equity Fund	2812.20	2960.30	+12.70	...
Intl Fund	870.60	916.50	+ 8.80	...
Fixed Interest	724.90	763.10	+ 4.20	...
Property Fund	560.70	590.30	+ 0.40	...
Cash Fund	419.90	442.00	+ 0.40	...
Pacific Basin	247.70	260.80	+ 0.10	...
N American Fd	533.30	561.40	- 3.10	...
Euro Fund	578.90	609.40	+ 9.60	...
Balanced Fund	237.80	250.40	+ 1.40	...
Strategic Fund	269.60	283.80	+ 1.90	...

ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Mult Grow (45) ‡	1151.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc	602.52	634.22	...	...
Op Prop	577.50	607.90	- 0.10	...
Op Equity	1665.40	1753.10	+12.40	...
Op High Yield	781.20	822.30	+ 5.10	...
Op Managed	1218.70	1282.80	+ 9.90	...
Op Deposit	451.90	475.70	+ 0.40	...
Japan Smlr	123.30	129.80	...	...
Managed Gth	412.30	434.00	...	...
British	607.00	638.90	...	...
Global Bond	125.40	132.00	...	...
Gold Share	63.20	66.50	...	...
Japan	252.80	266.10	...	...
UK Smlr Cos	762.60	802.70	...	...
Mngd Growth	682.60	718.50	...	...

ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS
0151 239 3000
Royal Life Unit Linked

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	586.80	617.60	+ 2.40	...

SAVE & PROSPER
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bal Inv Fund	110.20	116.70	+ 0.60	1.92
Deposit Fund (2)	439.90	465.10	+ 0.30	7.10
Gilt Fund	687.40	726.20	+ 4.50	6.91
Global Equity Fd	314.80	333.20	- 2.90	...
Property Fund (46)	139.90	148.10	...	6.50

SCOTTISH AMICABLE
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow
0141 248 2323

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1001.60	1054.40	+ 9.40	...
Fixed Interest	470.50	495.30	+ 1.30	...
Index-Linked	246.10	259.10	+ 1.50	...
International	581.10	611.70	+ 3.30	...
Property	363.70	382.90	...	...
Cash	262.10	275.90	+ 0.20	...
Managed	679.70	715.50	+ 6.40	...
Cap Gteed Bd	207.00	217.80	+ 1.20	...
95% Safeguard	115.60	...	+ 0.60	...
100% Safeguard	105.80	...	+ 0.20	...
Wealth Pres Cap	121.00	...	+ 0.50	...
Wealth Pres Inc	164.30	...	+ 0.90	...
BonusBond ‡	114.20	...	+ 0.70	...

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF
0131 556 9101

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	209.77	220.81	+ 0.20	...
Index-Linked	211.80	223.00	+ 2.10	...
Fixed Interest	240.50	253.10	+ 2.20	...
Mixed	398.10	419.20	+ 5.00	...
UK Equity	402.70	423.90	+ 5.10	...
International	376.30	396.20	+ 5.10	...
American	530.40	558.30	+ 1.40	...
Japan	173.20	182.30	...	...
European	523.00	550.50	+13.60	...
Pacific	261.80	275.60	+ 0.20	...
Technology	705.20	742.30	+ 3.90	...
Frgn Bd/Crncy	254.70	268.10	+ 2.00	...

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE
0131 225 2211

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property	274.50	289.10	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	640.70	674.50	+ 6.40	...
American	456.70	480.80	- 1.60	...
Pacific	271.70	286.10	- 1.70	...
European	845.60	890.20	+16.90	...
Global Mgd	395.90	416.80	+ 1.70	...
Fixed Interest	315.60	332.30	+ 2.10	...
Index Linked	256.00	269.60	+ 2.60	...
Deposit	225.90	237.80	+ 0.20	...
Managed	433.00	455.90	+ 3.20	...
Worldwide	149.00	156.90	+ 1.90	...
Pen Worldwide	163.20	171.90	+ 2.60	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN
0141 248 6321

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Flex Fund (35)	2675.40	2758.10	...	...
Safety Fund	320.10	336.90	+ 1.50	...
Growth Fund	359.90	378.90	+ 1.80	...
Opportunity Fd	367.20	386.60	+ 1.60	...
Cash Fund	200.30	210.90	+ 0.10	...
European Fund	672.70	708.20	+ 9.10	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	*274.50*	*289.00*	*+ 2.30*	...
Index-Linked Fd	231.60	243.80	...	...
International Fd	385.70	406.10	+ 3.70	...
North American	465.30	489.80	+ 3.80	...
Property Fund	139.00	146.40	...	...
UK Equity	430.00	452.70	+ 1.80	...
UK Smaller	375.60	395.40	+ 2.10	...

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA
0131 556 9181

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Mixed	419.20	441.30	+ 2.60	...
Equity	497.10	523.40	+ 3.30	...
International	372.20	391.80	+ 0.80	...
Property	277.70	292.40	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	334.50	352.20	+ 1.00	...
Index Linked	234.70	247.10	+ 1.50	...
Cash	212.80	224.10	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1239.70	1318.90	+ 7.60	...
Cash Fund	388.30	409.20	+ 0.40	...
Property Fund	359.90	379.30	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	1255.10	1335.30	+ 4.80	...
Fxd Interest Fund	653.70	688.90	+ 1.70	...
International	525.60	559.20	+ 0.10	...
High Income	1245.50	1325.10	+ 2.60	...
Far East	442.10	470.40	+ 0.80	...
North American	984.80	1047.70	-20.00	...
Special Sits	1166.00	1240.50	+13.30	...
Technology	1222.30	1300.40	-23.90	...
Extra Income Fd	667.00	709.60	+ 2.50	...
Gilt Fund	567.10	603.40	+ 0.80	...
European	281.80	299.80	+ 7.50	...
Adventurous Mg	300.50	316.70	+ 1.00	...
Secure Mgd	213.70	225.20	+ 0.90	...
Equity Inc Dist	175.50	185.00	+ 0.80	4.12
Managed Dist	144.40	152.20	+ 0.60	4.85
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	521.20	554.50	+ 5.10	...
North America	617.00	656.40	- 2.40	...
Far East Fund	422.90	449.90	+ 1.50	...
Global Managed	684.70	728.50	+ 5.60	...
Deposit Fund	261.90	275.70	+ 0.10	...
Prime Residential	150.50	158.50	+ 0.40	...
European Fund	515.70	548.70	+ 5.00	...
Fixed Interest	65.60	69.80	+ 0.50	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU
0131 655 6000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Pol 1	1610.20	1610.20	+13.10	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1450.80	1527.20	+12.40	...
Inv Pol 3	1362.80	1434.60	+11.60	...
Inv Cash	364.00	383.20	+ 0.30	...
Mixed Fund	685.30	721.50	+ 7.80	...
Equity Fund	921.80	970.40	+ 9.90	...
Property Fund	320.20	337.10	+ 0.40	...
International Fd	639.80	673.60	+ 9.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	500.20	526.60	+ 3.50	...
Indexed Stock Fd	255.40	268.90	+ 2.40	...
Cash Fund	265.30	279.40	+ 0.30	...

SKANDIA LIFE
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX
01703 334411

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Acc	597.60	629.00	+ 1.90	...
Equity Acc	829.80	873.40	+18.00	...
International Acc	*431.90*	*454.60*	*- 6.20*	...
Property	258.20	271.70	-12.30	...

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	310.50	326.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1819.80	1915.60	+15.90	...
European	283.20	298.20	+ 6.80	...
Far East	137.70	145.00	- 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	528.40	556.30	+ 4.10	...
Index Linked	272.60	287.00	+ 2.10	...
International	784.50	825.80	+ 9.00	...
Managed	1086.40	1143.60	+10.70	...
Nth American	258.10	271.70	+ 0.20	...
Property	446.40	469.90	+ 0.70	...
Pensions				
Cash	506.10	532.80	+ 0.70	...
Equity	2908.40	3061.50	+18.60	...
European	396.80	417.70	+11.80	...
Far East	101.90	107.30	- 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	782.80	824.00	+ 7.90	...
Index Linked	398.30	419.30	+ 3.90	...
International	1178.60	1240.70	+13.10	...
Managed	1659.80	1747.20	+15.40	...
Nth American	367.30	386.70	+ 0.30	...
Property	692.90	729.40	+ 3.60	...
Stock Exchange	370.60	390.20	+ 3.00	...

SUN ALLIANCE
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex
01403 232323

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	1126.90	1186.20	+ 5.30	...
Equity Fund	1623.90	1709.40	+ 4.60	...
Fixed Interest Fd	544.40	573.10	+ 3.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	420.20	442.30	+ 2.80	...
Property Fund	603.60	635.40	+ 0.70	...
International Fd	1050.70	1106.00	+ 4.40	...
N American Fd	550.10	579.00	+ 7.10	...
Far East Fund	190.80	200.90	...	...
Deposit Fund	348.70	367.00	+ 0.40	...
Intnl Bd ‡	£144.80	...	...	...
Worldwide Bond	176.00	185.30	...	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	362.10	381.20	+ 8.20	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1144.30	1204.60	+ 5.50	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	759.90	820.20	+87.60	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	711.50	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	655.40	...	+ 0.70	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	962.30	...	+ 1.00	...
-do- Acc ‡	913.80	...	+ 0.90	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	523.90	...	+ 3.10	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	547.30	...	+ 3.20	...
Investment Fd ‡	607.80	...	+ 2.70	...
Investment (A) ‡	580.30	...	+ 2.60	...
Equity ‡	2403.30	...	+ 6.70	...
Equity Acc ‡	2282.20	...	+ 6.30	...
Money Fund ‡	565.00	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	*535.80*	...	*+ 0.50*	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	1003.70	...	+ 4.80	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	513.50	...	+ 2.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	513.50	...	+ 2.80	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1527.80	...	+ 2.00	...
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	263.60	...	+ 0.30	...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ
Dealing: 01256 841414

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Growth Acc ‡	2493.80	...	-24.50	...
Managed Acc ‡	1336.10	...	+24.40	...
Equity Account ‡	2154.30	...	+34.00	...
Mngd Fund Acc	603.80	635.60	+ 4.90	...
Equity Fund Acc	923.60	972.20	+ 6.10	...
Prop Fund Acc	338.40	356.20	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	423.40	445.70	- 0.80	...
Money Fund Acc	254.50	267.90	+ 0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	259.20	272.90	+ 0.70	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	3063.60	...	-60.80	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1423.40	1498.30	-29.80	...
Pens Guarantee	334.30	351.90	+ 0.60	...
Pens Equity	609.80	641.90	-16.60	...
Pens Property	391.40	412.00	+ 0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	424.90	447.30	- 2.50	...
Pens Intl	348.00	366.40	- 5.50	...
Pens Money	285.10	300.30	+ 0.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	260.50	274.20	...	...

SUN LIFE UNIT
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL
0117 9426911

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Acc	1343.70	1414.50	+10.40	...
Property Acc	495.00	521.10	+ 0.80	...
Equity Acc	2516.60	2649.10	+21.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	543.40	572.00	+ 3.60	...
Cash Acc	360.10	379.10	+ 0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	703.40	740.50	- 2.60	...
Japan Acc	187.20	197.10	- 1.60	...
Pacific Acc	262.70	276.60	+ 2.60	...
Far Eastern Acc	584.00	614.80	- 1.80	...
International Acc	762.70	802.90	+ 4.40	...
Distribution Fund	365.80	385.10	+ 2.40	5.06
European	353.40	372.00	+ 6.20	...
Defind Dist	257.90	271.50	+ 1.40	...

TSB LIFE LTD
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE
01264 345678

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	432.60	455.40	+ 4.10	...
Property Fund	258.40	272.10	- 0.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	289.30	304.70	+ 2.10	...
Money Fund	232.40	244.80	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	598.10	629.70	+ 6.40	...

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE LIFE LTD
PO Box 23842, Edinburgh EH3 8YG
0845 845 5555

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Growth ‡	...	...	...	...
Balanced Growth ‡	...	...	...	...
Intl Growth ‡	...	...	...	...

WINDSOR LIFE
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire
01952 292929

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Bond	1075.40	1132.00	- 0.70	...
Money Fund	367.80	387.10	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	1068.80	1125.00	- 1.70	...
Fixed Interest	371.90	391.40	+ 8.00	...
Property Fund	460.20	484.40	- 0.40	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	899.40	946.70	-29.00	...
Income	1234.10	1299.00	- 2.00	...
International Gth	874.90	920.90	- 5.90	...
Capital Fund	927.60	976.40	- 1.50	...
Recovery Fund	640.70	674.40	- 4.90	...
Japan & General	177.10	186.40	- 3.80	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.94	22.04	+ 0.02	...
Bear	30.30	31.89	+ 0.32	...
Owl	34.30	36.10	+ 0.02	...
Bull	27.45	28.89	- 0.03	...
Stag	26.92	28.33	- 0.21	...
Gilt Edged	24.50	25.78	+ 0.52	...
Deposit	18.02	18.96	+ 0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	29.81	31.37	+ 0.04	...
Bear	46.00	48.42	+ 0.60	...
Owl	51.53	54.24	+ 0.04	...
Bull	38.85	40.89	- 0.05	...
Stag	38.22	40.23	- 0.44	...
Gilt Edged	33.39	35.14	- 0.88	...
Deposit	24.40	25.68	+ 0.03	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund ‡		912.51	- 0.58	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	593.49	624.72	- 0.95	...
N Amer Equity	480.45	505.73	-15.52	...
Far East Equity	284.54	299.51	+ 3.35	...
Fixed	392.73	413.40	+ 8.39	...
Cash Deposit	237.38	249.87	+ 0.24	...
Property	196.10	206.42	- 0.16	...
Special Opp	523.05	550.57	- 4.03	...
Managed	478.42	503.59	- 0.35	...
Index-Linked Fd	238.28	250.82	+ 4.26	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	893.10	940.10	- 0.70	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	491.10	516.90	+10.50	...
Life Equity Acc	1410.30	1484.50	- 2.20	...
Life Money Acc	345.60	363.70	+ 0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1175.90	1237.30	- 1.00	...
Life Intl Acc	618.50	651.00	- 4.20	...
Life High Inc Acc	1376.20	1448.60	+ 0.30	...
Life Property Acc	308.30	324.50	- 0.20	...

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

You can bet on Bonds

From Mrs Lin Ashurst

Sir, In 1958 a horse called Hard Ridden won the Derby at 20-1. I had been allowed to place a one shilling bet on the race, or at least my father had placed the bet on my behalf. I had chosen to bet on Hard Ridden and I won £1.

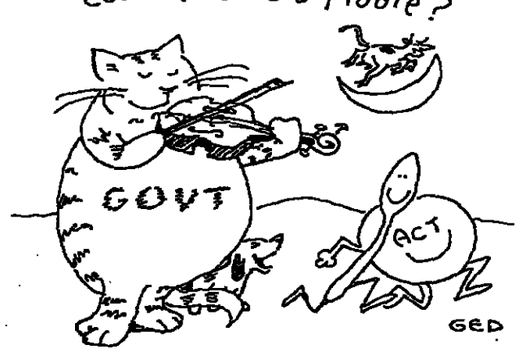
However, as I was only nine years old, my mother thought it would be bad for my future moral fibre to allow me to keep the money. Instead, I was "made" to buy a £1 Premium Bond which was seen to be far less of a threat to my scruples.

In 1993 I won £50 with my £1 bond, representing an annualised return of 11.8 per cent, free of tax.

My advice to Mrs M.E. Bruce, (*Weekend Money* letters, May 9), is do not give up on your small holding of Premium Bonds. They may not make your fortune but they could, paradoxically, save you from a lifetime of gambling.

Yours faithfully,
LIN ASHURST,
Meadowside, Oakridge Lane,
Sidcot, Somerset, BS251LX.

Savings policy hypocrisy



From Mr Norman Rothe

Sir, You rightly support the efforts of Helen Liddell to secure a fairer deal for savers, including "naming and shaming" providers who have been found wanting. This week has seen the release of more information about Isas, and has given her a further opportunity to demonstrate her concern for savers.

But is there not a strong whiff of hypocrisy in the air? Mrs Liddell is a minister in a Government which may have done more to damage the long-term interests of subscribers to pension schemes than any errant businessman, and the younger the saver the more his pension will be diminished by the withdrawal of ACT relief.

That the measure may have been implemented in the mistaken belief that only company schemes, all thought to be in substantial surplus, would be affected, and that the Government could, in effect, "windfall tax" them and not individual members, merely reinforces concern. Indeed, matters are not what they might have thought — many company schemes are not in surplus, and the recently introduced solvency ratios and lower interest rates will remove many other surpluses.

The Chancellor's decision and the way legislation, and attitudes, have developed is such as to encourage employers to change from final salary to money purchase schemes so even more people will have cause to rue Mr Brown's raid on pension schemes.

What amazes me is that there has not been an outcry. One can only assume that most people are not fully aware of what has been done — the truth should be shouted from the rooftops.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN ROTHE,
9 The Laurels,
Fleet, Hampshire, GU13 9RB.

CGT ALLOWANCES — MARCH 1998

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in March 1998

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.946	0.852	0.783	0.671	0.606	0.557	0.449
February	-	0.938	0.844	0.749	0.665	0.602	0.555	0.438
March	1.024	0.935	0.838	0.733	0.662	0.598	0.545	0.432
April	0.984	0.908	0.814	0.697	0.646	0.580	0.520	0.407
May	0.970	0.900	0.807	0.689	0.643	0.578	0.514	0.398
June	0.965	0.895	0.803	0.685	0.644	0.578	0.508	0.393
July	0.964	0.885	0.805	0.688	0.649	0.580	0.507	0.392
August	0.963	0.877	0.788	0.684	0.644	0.575	0.490	0.389
September	0.965	0.889	0.784	0.685	0.636	0.570	0.483	0.379
October	0.955	0.882	0.773	0.682	0.633	0.563	0.488	0.389
November	0.945	0.855	0.768	0.676	0.619	0.555	0.462	0.357
December	0.949	0.851	0.789	0.674	0.614	0.557	0.458	0.354

Month purchased	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
January	0.346	0.235	0.186	0.166	0.138	0.101	0.071	0.041	0.008
February	0.338	0.228	0.180	0.159	0.132	0.095	0.068	0.037	0.003
March	0.325	0.224	0.176	0.154	0.128	0.090	0.061	0.035	
April	0.285	0.208	0.159	0.144	0.115	0.079	0.054	0.029	
May	0.274	0.204	0.154	0.140	0.111	0.075	0.052	0.025	
June	0.269	0.199	0.154	0.140	0.111	0.073	0.051	0.021	
July	0.268	0.202	0.159	0.143	0.117	0.078	0.055	0.021	
August	0.255	0.199	0.158	0.138	0.111	0.073	0.050	0.015	
September	0.244	0.195	0.154	0.133	0.109	0.068	0.046	0.009	
October	0.234	0.190	0.149	0.134	0.107	0.073	0.046	0.008	
November	0.237	0.186	0.151	0.136	0.107	0.073	0.046	0.008	
December	0.238	0.185	0.155	0.133	0.101	0.067	0.041	0.005	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

Helen Pridham continues her series on pre-retirement investment

Knowing when to jump is key

YOU AND YOUR PENSION

One of the most important factors determining how much retirement income you will receive if you have a personal pension plan, or any other type of "money purchase" pension policy, will be the total value of your pension contributions at the time you retire. The size of your fund will depend on a number of things including the amount you have paid in, the charges deducted and the skill of your pension company's investment managers. However, the state of the stock market could also play a crucial role.

This is something pension plan holders often overlook. They don't always think of their pension in the same terms as their other investments. They may even have forgotten what type of investment funds their contributions are invested in. This is potentially dangerous. If their money is in an equity linked fund, it could fall significantly in value if the bottom drops out of the stock market just as they reach their retirement date.

For this reason many pension companies and financial advisers have started to recommend that pension plan holders should consider moving away from equities into more cautious funds as they approach retirement. Some policies are now designed with an automatic switching mechanism included so that money is moved gradually out of equities usually into fixed interest or cash funds in the five or ten years prior to retirement. These so-called "lifestyle" plans are becoming more common where policies are designed for groups of workers, such as group personal pension or additional voluntary contribution (AVC) contracts for employees topping up their company pension.

Some insurers also offer the same type of automatic switching systems for individuals. With Virgin Direct's personal pension plan, for example, all payments are invested in its index-tracker fund until ten years before the policyholder's expected retirement date. Then 10 per cent of the value of the investment is moved each year to its fixed-interest fund until, by the time someone is one year away from retirement, 100 per cent of the pension has been switched.

A number of companies use cash funds as their safe haven but these are not always as risk-free as they might seem. As Margaret Craig, senior technical manager at Standard Life, points out: "It is not only maintaining the size of your pension fund as you approach retirement that should be considered, the cost of purchasing a pension must also be taken into account. That will depend on annuity rates." A fall in annuity rates could mean that, even though your pension fund retains its value in a cash fund, it will buy less pension. To offset this problem Standard Life has set up a special gilt fund that invests in the same type of long-dated gilts that are used to back up annuities and whose value therefore rises and falls in line with the cost of buying an annuity.

Another potential snag with switching into secure funds is that you may miss out on a significant amount of growth in equities if the market rises strongly as you approach retirement. The earlier the automatic switching starts the more of this growth you could miss. If switches occur during a market slump you would also lose out on any subsequent recovery.

Some companies therefore leave the switching process until nearer retirement. Commercial Union offers a choice of three start dates — ten, five or three years before retirement. "It depends how much risk people want to take," says Ian Oliver, Commercial Union's pensions development manager.

At Scottish Widows, Ian Naismith, pensions strategy manager, says: "Our research suggests that it is best not to switch out of equities until fairly late on. We believe starting ten years before retirement is too early in most circumstances. However, one way of reducing risk is to switch into a protected equity fund five years from retirement and then into a gilt fund two to three years later." Protected equity funds allow investors to benefit to a limited extent if the stock market rises, and in return protect them against a sharp fall.

Another approach offered by Equitable Life for its group personal pension and AVC contracts is to use an 80/20 combination of an index-tracking fund and a with-profits fund. In the last ten years, existing investments in the tracker fund are moved across so that one year from retirement a policyholder's money is 100 per cent with profits. It means a large part of a policyholder's fund is still in equities right to the end but because with-profit bonuses are added to produce a smoothing effect the fund is less vulnerable to sudden market downturns.

However, this automatic switching option is not available for people holding individual policies. A broker says: "Someone with their own personal pension is less likely to have a fixed retirement date so automatic switching is not appropriate."

Many independent advisers, such as Robert Reid, chairman of the Society of Financial Advisers, are also wary of automatic switching for individual policyholders. "By minimising risk, these systems can restrict the opportunity for growth."

Anyone with a pension policy that has been in existence for some years may be able to switch between funds.

CHRISTOPHER BISSEL/TONY STONE



The market's performance may seem miles away but is crucial

Beckett's 25% off for Christmas

The Consumers' Association predicts that the price of electrical goods will slump by up to 25 per cent before the Christmas rush this year, following the introduction of a new order by Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, to increase competition and to stop suppliers from fixing prices.

Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, claims it is unlikely to be affected by a fall in prices but if necessary will match those of rivals. "We are already operating within a highly competitive industry. We will match the price of any other retailer for a like-for-like product. That is the Dixons promise, the Curry's promise and the promise of all our other chains," the group says.

Mark Purdy, a senior policy researcher at the Consumers' Association, says the most dramatic price reductions will be on expensive items such as televisions, washing machines and hi-fi systems. He predicts the biggest discounts will be offered by recent entrants into this market like Costco, the warehouse club.

"Some suppliers would not supply warehouse clubs because they feared price-discounting which effectively excluded them from the market. As a result, the clubs have a low market share, but the new order should strengthen their position," Mr Purdy said. He believes greater competition from warehouse clubs plus other discount stores will force Dixons and other major retailers to cut their prices as well.

Mrs Beckett intends to make it illegal from September 1 for suppliers to restrict the freedom of retailers to price products as they choose, to recommend a retail price, or to discriminate against retailers who sell at discount prices. This practice was first identified by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) in two reports published last year on the domestic electrical goods markets.

Small retailers which use the recommended retail price as their benchmark are expected to be the worst affected by the new order. Fred Round, chief executive of the Radio, Electrical and Television Retailers Association (RETRA), says: "By the time the order comes into effect, lots of small businesses will have disappeared because customers are already saying that they are deferring purchases until after September, and you cannot run a business without sales."

He says that some very large retailers are offering very low-priced deals to customers which are not profitable but draw people into their stores. "The Government is throwing the market open to predatory pricing. So if a large company wants to offer silly prices to kill off the competition, the order will help them. We will not have more competition but less because there will be fewer retailers to choose from."

However, a Department of Trade and Industry spokesman says the order is necessary because some suppliers were issuing a recommended price and telling retailers to sell their products at that price — otherwise they would stop supplies. Thus prices were being kept artificially high. The MMC reports had identified monopoly situations which it believed were acting against the public interest and the DTI said the new order should give consumers a better deal.

KAREN WOOLFSON

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Blue is the colour for the card-carrying young

MIKE GOLDWATER



Amex is targeting free-spending under-30s who are not bothered about carrying debt

According to American Express, a company more usually associated with green, blue is a colour for the Nineties, a colour that is eternally modern. These youthful connections are the reason why Amex has chosen the hue for its new card aimed at the under-30s, launched today.

Attracting sufficient numbers of this free-spending age group would leave any card company nicely in the black, as they are not swift to repay their balances in full each month, and so must pay interest on their borrowings. Research shows that the 25 to 35 age group have on average £571 on their credit cards each month to pay back. Among under-25s, 33 per cent plan to carry this debt indefinitely or do not know how long it will take to pay off.

The Amex Blue Credit Card has an introductory annual percentage rate (APR) of 9.9 per cent for six months, rising to 19.5 per cent thereafter. There is a £12 pa fee and the card also offers up to 46 days interest-free credit and purchase protection for up to 90 days after purchase. Cardholders receive a 1 per cent moneyback on all purchases and 5 per cent for a month in November.

At any age, however, the choice of a credit card should be based on the rate. A spokeswoman for the Credit Card Research Group said: "If you do not expect to pay off your balance every month, you should go for a card that gives the lowest interest rate possible."

Although the Blue American Express Card has a relatively good introductory offer, there are introductory APRs which beat this. Capital One Bank has an APR of 6.90 per cent and RBS Advanta an APR of 7.90 per cent until January and March 1999 respectively, both rising to 17.90 per cent thereafter.

Cards which offer a continually low interest rate include Bank of Scotland (13.9 per cent), Co-operative Bank (12.60 per cent), People's Bank (15.90 per cent). None of these charges an annual fee.

Lisa Hill-Whyte, marketing manager at People's Bank, said: "Our research shows that 57 per cent of this age group will be carrying a balance over month on month and 64 per cent are looking to carry the balance for longer than one year. A huge number of these customers are going to be relying on credit long-term."

While American Express's teaser introductory rates may appeal, members will pay in the long term with the high back-end rate — 19.5 per cent is not cheap.

LIZANNE ROSE

Signing on for the summer

Clare Stewart and **Anne Ashworth** ask

if subscriptions are value for money

The swimsuit season approaches but your reflection in the mirror is not the Cindy Crawford or Naomi Campbell of your fond imaginings but a decidedly flabbier form. Your sorrow about your lack of firm muscle tone is made worse by the knowledge that you may not have lost weight but you have lost money.

Since signing up at the local health and fitness club after the Christmas surfeit, your visits have become less frequent, despite your best intentions. Your expensive annual subscription was the poorest investment you have made in the year to date.

According to a Mintel survey on the health and fitness market, club membership fees vary between £100 and £1,500 with some more exclusive establishments charging £2,500. However, thousands of those who sign up for membership at the beginning of the year fall by the wayside by Easter, without cancelling their monthly direct debits. Health and fitness is a £1 billion a year industry which is prospering mightily from the inertia of many of its customers. No wonder Mintel says a third of consumers believe memberships are overpriced.

It is an accepted industry statistic that if 100 people join a club, 20 will leave, 20 will become loyal stalwarts and the rest must be kept interested with special offers or they will go elsewhere,either in search of a more arduous Stairmaster or for a better membership deal. The latest thing in special offers may not be another piece of equipment or aromatherapy treatments but the club where you pay by the month, not the year. Richard Branson is set to spring into the health and fitness field next year with clubs for the value-conscious.

The first Virgin Active establishment opens next spring in Preston, and there will be no joining fee, just a monthly membership fee. The clubs will have "unique facilities",said Brad Rosser, group director of corporate development for Virgin Group, "but we don't see why people should be charged silly prices to belong." Exactly what he sees as a sensible price is a close secret, as Virgin does not want competitors "muscling in".

The initial joining fee is the norm in the £1 billion industry. If, for example, you joined the Leeds club, the newest of the chain of David Lloyd Health & Racquet Clubs, as an individual you would pay a £280 joining fee and £62 a month for the full membership, costing you £1,024 in the first year and £744 in subsequent years.

A family membership at the same level would cost £86 a month, with a £450 joining fee. This tots up to £1,482 in year one, and £1,032 thereafter. Membership at the revamped Champneys Piccadilly is set to rise from £1,500 to £2,500.

However extensive the range of facilities on offer, it is clear that unless you are a regular user going two or three times a week, a health club membership could be a relatively costly indulgence. Before signing up to any offer, those anxious to be financially as well as physically fit need to sit down and evaluate the benefits on offer, calculating how much they will make use of them.

The same principle applies to subscriptions for cultural leisure pursuits, such as visiting stately homes. After an afternoon in a fascinating historic house, topped off with a visit to the shop and a cream tea, you might be gripped by the heritage bug and sign up as a National Trust member. Individual membership costs £28 and family membership for two adults and children under 18 is £54. Membership gives free entry to the trust's properties, a handbook and a magazine three times a year.



Thousands buy National Trust subscriptions, but are they worth it?

Charges for visiting trust properties are usually £3-£6, so an individual member, for example, would have to go to more than six houses a year in order to get best value from membership. If you fail to reach this target, however, there is perhaps the consolation that you have helped in the upkeep of our national heritage.

Barbara Anderson, a 30 year old strategy consultant from London, joined London's Cannons gym five years ago. Her joining up fee was around £200 and she pays an annual corporate membership rate of £500 a year. She uses the gym five times a week, which means the cost of each visit is £2 excluding the initial fee. The fee entitles her to use all the equipment and all the classes.

Buying a football club season ticket will provide a seat at all 19 home games of the season. But you may need to find as much £600 and may not be able to buy further tickets at preferential rates. If you want to buy a Chelsea season ticket, the only availability currently is for tickets of £545 or £615. Some clubs do offer payment plans to spread the cost but there may be interest to pay. Whatever subscription you are paying, ask if there is a discount for direct debits. The AA, for example, gives discounts of £5-£25 for direct debit payers.

FRANK MICELOTTA/AP



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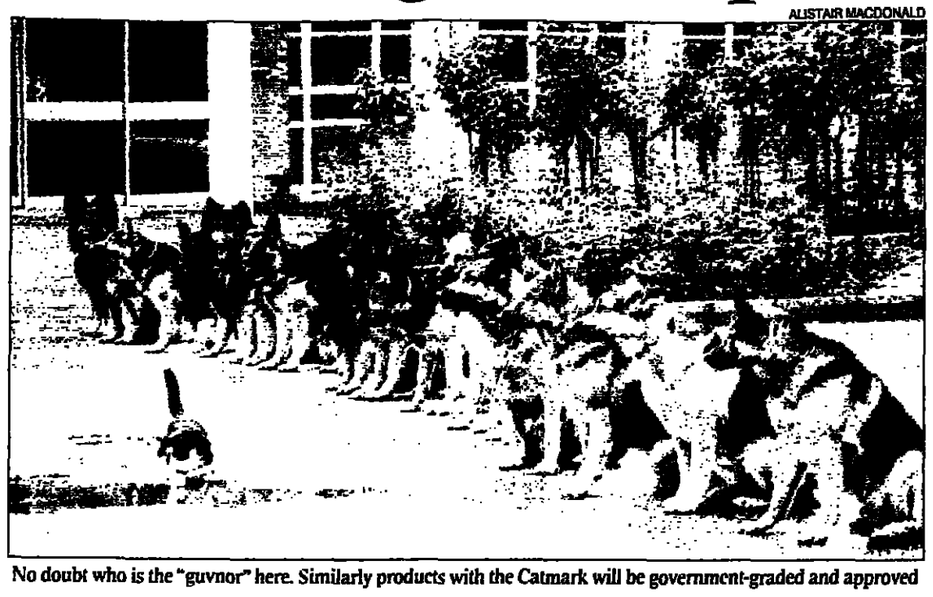
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Make sure things are up to scratch

Caroline Merrell explains what the new Cat standard means for sales of financial services

ALISTAIR MACDONALD



No doubt who is the "guvnor" here. Similarly products with the Catmark will be government-graded and approved

The opaque world of financial services, littered as it is already with acronyms such as Peps, Tessas, Isas, this week gained another — the Cat standard. Although ideal for headlines, the new term is not as it seems some sort of feline flag; instead it is a Government initiative to try to grade products according to cost, access and terms.

The idea is that products that make the Cat standard will have no hidden costs, no strings, easy-access terms when savings are cashed in, and nothing damaging in the small print.

The Cat standard is part of the Government's aim to reach six million new savers with Isas.

In another radical break with tradition, the Inland Revenue has published draft regulations to allow the new account to be opened electronically or over the phone without the need of a written signature. This opens the way for Isas to be sold over the Internet, or even the television when technology improves and should go a long way to overcoming public inertia, particularly among people on low incomes.

Fund managers, Fidelity, Gartmore, M&G and Perpetual are looking already how payments could be made secure. However, making it more easy to buy Isas has increased fears that people could be encouraged into risky investments that they do not understand.

Isas will allow savers to invest £5,000 a year over a ten-year period. This can be invested in a mix of life insurance, stocks and shares, including unit trusts and investment trusts, and cash. Different Cat standards will apply to the three elements.

The industry that has been charged with bringing the Isa to the masses poured scorn on the proposals this week. As originally revealed by *The Times* most of the products that are currently offered will not meet the Cat standard — they do not provide the access, are too expensive, or are invested in the wrong sort of funds. Controversially, the standard on the stocks and shares part of the Isa, will be given only to funds that track the UK general index.

Here we explain what the Cat standard means, and perhaps more importantly what it does not mean.

Q What does the Cat standard mean?

A The Cat means that the product is appropriate for those who are novices to saving — the Government's target market. The proposals say: "The standards should define a group of products likely to meet the concerns of people not used to saving who may want a way of spotting products which may offer them what they are looking for."

Q What does the Cat standard not mean?

A The Cat standard does not mean that the Cat Isas are the only ones that anyone should consider. Some funds produce much better returns than the UK index, but they will not make the standard. Other products which have advice built in to the charges may also be suitable, as will Isas with a more adventurous investment strategy.

Q Which products will get the Cat standard?

A To qualify for the Cat standard, the cash Isa must carry a rate that does not fall too far below the base rate. This will stop the practice of deposit providers making a profit on base rate rises by delaying putting up depositors' rates. The cash Cat standard will also mean that the product will have a low minimum subscription, and savers will be able to withdraw their money within a certain number of days. The Cat standard will also allow savers to make unlimited withdrawals without penalty.

The Cat standard on the insurance Isa will be given only to products that carry a low annual charge, and no initial charge, have low subscription levels and will pay at least the premiums back if the product is surrendered within a certain number of years.

On the share Isa, Cat standards will only apply to the funds that carry low annual charges and track the UK index. An annual charge of about 1 per cent is expected to become the standard.

Q Which products will not make the Cat standard?

A Unfortunately for the industry, most of the investment products currently on offer would not meet the standard. Most, such as the Prudential's Prudence bond, carry charges that are linked to commission paid to salesmen. The Prudence bond has attracted £5 billion from 220,000 investors, and is the single most successful investment product in the UK.

No investment trusts would meet the Cat standard, nor would any internationally diversified unit trusts, or with-profits bonds.

Q Will the Cat standards distort the market?

A The Cat will give a competitive edge to companies that offer cheap index tracking funds, such as Legal & General and Virgin Direct. But Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, wants to ensure that this does not drive companies out of the market. She has instructed the Office of Fair Trading to monitor the effects of the standard.

Some investment managers believe that too much money in index-tracking could eventually distort the UK stock market itself.

Q Why did the Treasury decide to introduce the Cat standard?

A The Government wants to encourage the poor to save. Products designed for this section of the market, such as friendly society schemes, are among the worst value products. The commission and sales costs would knock out many of the benefits.

The Government hopes that benchmarking against high costs and inflexibility will give the poor a better deal. It wants to ensure that the personal pensions mis-selling scandal is not repeated. However, the reaction from many sections of the financial services industry has been less than enthusiastic.

Fur flies over the Catmark

The Government's decision to bestow its Cat standard only on open-ended funds, such as unit trusts that track the UK stock market, has provoked outrage in the investment industry.

Nowhere have the squeals of anger been louder than in the £64 billion investment trust sector, which the Government has explicitly excluded in its definition of who can provide a "value for money" Isa.

At first sight the omission of investment trusts is bizarre. Investment trusts are companies listed on the Stock Exchange that invest in the stocks and shares of other companies. Dating back to the 1860s they are, in fact, the original collective savings scheme. What is more, the old timers comply with all three of the Government's Cat criteria. Cost — investment trusts are relatively inexpensive, charging less than ordinary unit trusts and about as much as the cheap trackers the Government favours so much.

Access — shares in investment trusts can be bought through any stockbroker. A cheaper option is to join a monthly savings scheme operated by an investment trust manager. Since 1984, savers have pumped £1.6 billion into investment trusts this way.

Terms — here things get trickier. Over the long term, investment trusts offer the best deal for equity investors. Those most popular with private investors are general international trusts that spread the risk by buying equities from around the world.

If you had bought £1,000 of shares in a general international trust ten years ago they would be worth £4,538 today, compared with the £4,149 that is the best you could have expected from a unit trust tracking the FTSE All-share.

However, a curious feature of investment trusts is that their share price is not totally determined by how well the trust manager runs the trust's investments. Trust shares can grow more, or less, than the growth of the assets they trusts hold, depending on investors' demand for them. Over ten years they have grown more. The net asset value of the average international trust after 10 years is now £3,923. In other words the shares are at a £615 premium. Even better — money for nothing.

Unfortunately, in the past five years, the reverse has happened. A glut caused by too many new launches, combined with a lack of demand from institutional investors in the City has seen investment trusts shares fall to substantial discounts. Many investors have been left feeling robbed as the share prices have not reflected the growth in the underlying assets.

It is this facet that has probably discouraged the Government from recommending them to novice investors. This is unfortunate. The old guard running investment trusts was just beginning to wake up to the fact that they desperately needed to generate some public interest in their wares. Depriving them of the Cat standard stops them in their tracks.

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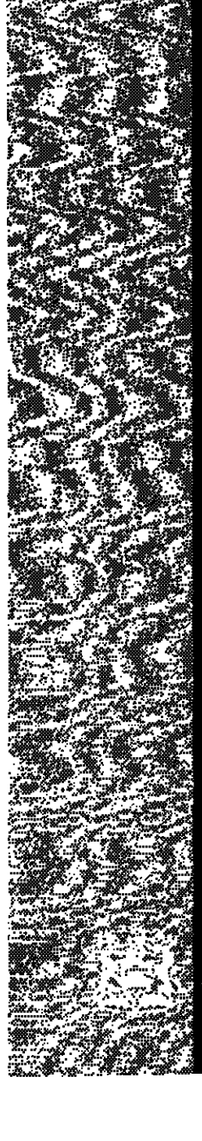
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Graham Searjeant savours spice in the food sector

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A new business spurred trip to insurance broker



DENIS REGGIE/AP



John F.Kennedy Jr and Carolyn Bessette have a contract for the bride to claim fixed amounts

For better... for contract

As the wedding season nears its high point Anne Ashworth spots a new trend

The peak wedding season may be close but politicians are more preoccupied with arrangements for the ending of marriages. Ministers are seeking ways in which divorcing couples can divide the matrimonial assets more equitably, with minimum strife — and at less cost to the legal aid budget.

Meanwhile, the House of Commons Social Security Select Committee will sit next month to discuss a draft Bill on the splitting of pensions on divorce. The deliberations will be launched at a public session attended by John Denham, the Pensions Minister. Pension splitting will allow a spouse with little or no retirement savings of his or her own to claim a share of the other spouse's pension at divorce.

Among solutions for the division of all matrimonial assets that will be examined are prenuptial contracts, favoured by film stars anxious to protect fortunes from the depredations of serial marriages.

A prenuptial contract drawn up for Sharon Stone, the actress, apparently allows her new husband Phil Bronstein, a journalist, to pocket just $300,000 of her estimated $60 million fortune if they part within two years. The contract between Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and John Kennedy apparently allows the bride to claim fixed amounts if their marriage ends within specified periods.

The feasibility of ordering a 50:50 split of a couple's worldly goods is also being considered by the Lord Chancellor's Department, as is the introduction of a definition of matrimonial property, such as exists in Scottish law. This includes all property belonging to the parties when they separate and property acquired before marriage, including the family home and furniture.The Lord Chancellor's Department is exploring all the options to achieve "a greater certainty in the division of matrimonial assets", according to a spokeswoman. At present, who gets what is largely at the discretion of the courts.

Behind the changes lies the Government's desire to limit the squabbling between partners which adds to the £373 million divorce legal aid bill. At the same time, although eager to save money, ministers are anxious to avoid imposing strict criteria on the division of assets. They do not wish to see a repeat of the Child Support Agency debacle.

The CSA applied rigid formulae to the calculation of maintenance, with often disastrous results. This would seem to militate against a 50:50 split of assets solution that might not provide adequately for children.

There is apparently considerable support among ministers for prenuptial contracts signed before marriage and laying out what each party should receive if they divorce. These have legal force in many other countries, including Holland and a number of American states, where elaborate "prenups" cover such minutiae as which spouse will use each room in the family home, but they are not enforceable in our courts.

Frances Hughes, matrimonial lawyer and partner at Bates Wells & Braithwaite, points out that, although the courts may choose to disregard contracts between spouses, those drawn up by cohabiting couples setting out who gets what are legally binding. However, although British courts may not recognise prenuptial contracts, some couples will still enter into them, with one party seeking to protect family wealth or recently acquired City money. Both parties will take legal advice before signing.

Grant Howell, divorce lawyer and partner at Charles Russell, is one of those who supports making prenuptial contracts both legal and more widely used. He said: "Contracts would require couples to address financial and other issues before they married, making them realise the obligations of marriage and also managing their expectations of what they would receive if it ends. However, the system would need to include checks and balances because the couple's situation at the time of marriage can be radically different 20 years later."

Sarah Anticoni, matrimonial lawyer and partner at Campbell Hooper, said contracts were ideal for childless marriages but posed problems for two career couples whose roles and incomes greatly changed after marriage: "What happens if the wife gives up work to care for the children and the husband suddenly becomes a millionaire from the takeover of his business? Would it still be right for each party to walk away with what they brought into marriage when this would probably be insufficient to keep the mother and children?"

However, Ms Anticoni believes that if the Government gives the go-ahead for "prenups" many couples will sign up. "In time, drawing up the prenup will start to appear on checklists in brides' magazines along with organising catering and ordering bouquets."

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BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 26-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Bank nails them all as more try DIY banking

Savers were this week given a warning by the Bank of England to make rigorous checks that firms or individuals have the appropriate banking licence before depositing their money with them. It also said that anyone trying to take deposits illegally is very likely to be caught.

The Bank's annual report reveals a marked increase in the number of cases of alleged illegal deposit-takings. New cases referred to the Bank jumped from 47 in 1996 to 62 last year, a near 32 per cent rise, and in total it handled 90 alleged cases.

Three criminal prosecutions were initiated by the Bank during the year, and this week Vincenzo Abello pleaded guilty to 19 sample counts of illegal deposit-taking. The 49-year-old accepted savings totalling £10.8 million from several hundred depositors between 1978 and 1995 when his company, A&G Facilities, was wound up.

Mr Abello received a lenient sentence — a fine of £5,000 — because he had never sought to make money for himself, but rather to provide a service for his clients. The creditors, mostly depositors, will receive 85p-90p in the pound out of losses of £2.1 million.

Michael Foot, the executive director in charge of banking supervision at the Bank of England, says that illegal deposit-takers have grown no more sophisticated in their ploys. Their usual line is simple: entrust us with your money and we will make it work for you.

"Often they are individuals with some political influence within a group, either ethnic or geographic," added Mr Foot. These sort of cases are usually sorted out quickly. More difficult are the cases where money has been deliberately siphoned off.

However, the unfortunate savers who have become the victims of illegal deposit-takers are unlikely to get their money back, unless the authorities can recover the funds.

Critically, such schemes are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme, a statutory scheme which will reimburse 90 per cent of any losses.

On the bright side, the Bank's efforts to track down and prosecute illegal deposit-takers have met with total success. It boasts a 100 per cent conviction rate in the courts because it is possible to find "real-life witnesses" to testify to the wrongdoing.

In one case, Mr Foot says, the judge was so swayed by the evidence given by a string of witnesses that he imposed twice the maximum sentence on the offender: four instead of two years. "This was of course sorted out at appeal," added Mr Foot.

RICHARD MILES

Victoria's valuable victory

Victoria Watson, a reader of *The Times*, was thrilled to get £4,000 in compensation from her insurer after Weekend Money took up her case.

Ms Watson contacted us in January after we highlighted the growing controversy surrounding payment protection policies. This form of insurance is supposed to pay off personal loans when policyholders lose their jobs or become unable to work.

However, a quirk of social security legislation threatened to penalise millions of prudent borrowers who had taken out the policies. It was revealed that Benefits Agency staff were including insurance payouts as part of a person's income when the money was paid into their bank accounts.

As a result, unemployed people were being denied jobseeker's allowance and housing benefit. This plunged the Government into crisis. Critics claimed it was part of a benefits clampdown. Insurers, however, admitted they had known about the rules for years but had seen few cases where they had been applied.

PAUL PIEVEZ



Victoria Watson triumphed with Weekend Money's help

Ms Watson, a single mother from Henley-on-Thames, revealed how she had been refused income support in 1995 after she told her local DSS office that she was benefiting from a mortgage protection policy with Guardian Insurance. Although mortgage protection policies were supposed to be exempt from the benefit assessment, Ms Watson ran into trouble because she had chosen to receive an additional £500 per month from Guardian.

Even though the money was earmarked to pay off the endowment on her mortgage and the high (£60) premium on the Guardian policy, the DSS ruled that it was part of her discretionary income. Her income support stopped and Ms Watson was forced to raid her savings.

Last month Guardian repaid Ms Watson all the income support she had missed, saying it was never its intention for customers to suffer financially from having one of its insurance policies.

She said: "It's absolutely wonderful. I thought I might get £3,000."

The problem should never recur. Earlier this month the Government changed the rules and ordered benefits staff to disregard all income from payment protection policies provided the money is paying off debt.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

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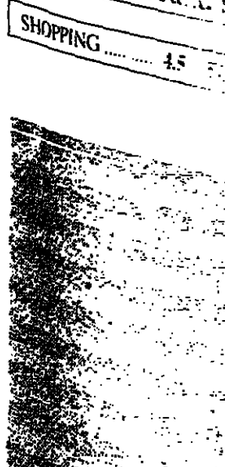
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Rachel and Agung

Rachel Biles, teacher, married to Agung, five years, describes how she young children revolutionary her husband

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هكذا من الأصل

SHOPPING



Cover girls: What they're wearing from beach to bar

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HOME LIFE



Strife after death: where there is a will, there is a war

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TRAVEL



The Times football-free zone kicks off today

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ANNE ROBINSON



'Oh, the thrill of watching Paxman grill'

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THE TIMES
WEEKEND

SATURDAY MAY 23 1998

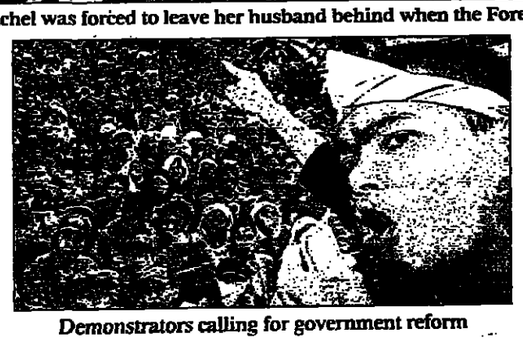
Our escape from Jakarta

GUZELIAN



Rachel and Agung on their wedding day in 1993. Rachel was forced to leave her husband behind when the Foreign Office urged British people to leave Indonesia. She flew out of Jakarta with the couple's two small children

Rachel Biles, 32, a language teacher, married an Indonesian, Agung, five years ago. Here she describes how she and her two young children escaped the revolutionary chaos, leaving her husband behind



Demonstrators calling for government reform

TUESDAY MAY 12

Six people killed as police fire on students demonstrating outside Trisakti University, Jakarta.

"Reformation for the People!" posters appear in Bandung and people openly criticise Suharto and his cabinet. This would have been unthinkable even a few weeks ago. Suharto is in Cairo and rumours are flying around: he won't come back, his family have left, he'll get rid of key opposition figures while he is away, etc. Everyone was surprised that he went to Cairo. The economy is in chaos.

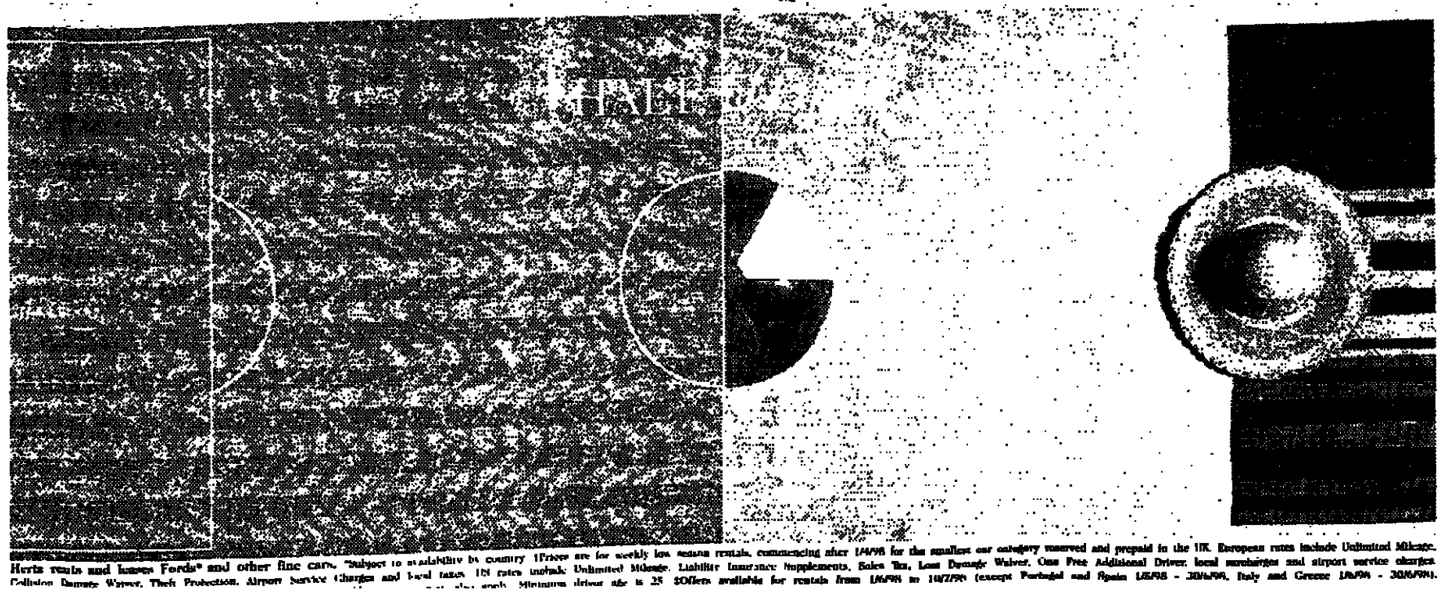
WEDNESDAY MAY 13

Rioting breaks out in Jakarta when police try to break up a rally marking the deaths of the six students. Ten people are killed, nine of them Chinese burnt to death when their shops and homes are set on fire.

Four students were shot dead at a university in Jakarta yesterday afternoon. At 11.30am around 2,000 students walk past our school singing nationalist songs. A wave of demonstrators comes from another direction and soon wave after wave are pouring past, accompanied by a few police and army. There is a minor panic. The security guards shut the gates to the car park. Frantic students get trapped in their cars between the sea of demonstrators and the gates. The escalation of the protest is astonishing. I ask the British Embassy what its latest advice is. As

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Hertz

'Our taxi avoids the crowds. The children point at the tanks on the street'

PETER BYRNE/GUZELIAN



Rachel's parents, the Rev David and Mrs Jean Biles. They flew to Kuala Lumpur to bring their grandchildren back to Britain while Rachel stayed to consider her future

Continued from page 1

usual. "Stay indoors". I ask what its plans are for evacuation if the situation deteriorates. The man gets snotty and says: "Think about it — think about the logistical difficulties of organising something from Bandung." I do think about it and cannot see any difficulties in landing a plane at the airport.

My husband's brother calls from Jakarta. There is serious widespread looting and the first demonstrations by non-students. We watch the news on television and realise how serious the rioting in Jakarta is: whole streets burning, shopping centres gutted.

THURSDAY MAY 14

President Suharto cuts short his visit to Cairo for the Group of 15 summit meeting, to return to a burning Jakarta policed by tanks. More than 120 looters are burnt to death in two shopping malls.

I call Ken (head of our sister school in Jakarta). Tension is mounting in Jakarta and we tell the staff in both schools that they can go home early. Everyone is exhausted by the uncertainty and tension. The student demonstrations are much better organised. They commandeer buses and cars and drive to the local government building with banners saying "Hang Suharto". How long will the police and army tolerate their vociferousness?

The warden for the British Embassy leaves Bandung for Singapore, taken out by his (American) company. I foolishly agree to take over. Mary (my deputy) calls from Jakarta. In a taxi last night she drove through crowds being shot at by the army.

FRIDAY MAY 15

Indonesian television is ordered not to show footage of riots in an attempt to calm the situation. The death toll is now estimated at 165.

My mum is desperate for us to come home. She has heard that 500 people have died in rioting in Jakarta. After Friday prayers at the mosque in the Institute of Technology, hundreds of thousands of students march on the government building again.

SATURDAY MAY 16

Death toll in riots has risen to nearly 500.

The American and Canadian embassies have chartered two planes to take their citizens out of Jakarta at midnight. Two thousand people turn up for 800 places, so they will lay on charter flights over the next few days.

The British Embassy calls to tell me about someone in Bandung trying to charter a 55-seater plane from the airport here. Some people want to leave Bandung but do not want to go via Jakarta.

I try to phone the 104 people registered with the British Embassy, with the help of two friends. Nearly half have already left. Planes, chartered by American companies with employees in Bandung, shuttle over our house all day.

I decide to try to go to Kuala Lumpur for a few days with the children. I take some noodles and bottled water to our security guards to hand to demonstrators going past the school. A friend of one of our teachers, who is a student activist, says it will show our support and make it less likely that the school would be the target of violence.

The Italian wife of André (a colleague in Jakarta) left for Singapore today with a large group of people from the Dutch, German and other embassies. They were all picked up at various points in Jakarta and driven under armed guard to the airport. The embassies paid for anyone who did not have money (they will have to pay it back later), and were ready with blank passports and advice for anyone whose documents were not complete.

SUNDAY MAY 17

The Foreign Office urges the hundreds of Britons still in Indonesia to leave amid predictions that bloodshed will increase.

Most of the day on the phone again, trying to make arrangements to get to Kuala Lumpur. The Australian Embassy is chartering flights for its citizens. The British Embassy is still saying "Stay inside". The charter flight from Bandung is cancelled.

MONDAY MAY 18

The head of the Indonesian ruling party and parliamentary Speaker call on President Suharto to resign. General Wiranto, commander-in-chief of the army, says the military wants the President to stay and carry out reforms.

10.30pm: Agung will stay in Bandung because he feels it is safe. I spend a couple of hours on the phone to the embassy, to Ken in Jakarta and to British Airways. The embassy now says that people in areas where there might be further trouble should turn up at the airport and try to get on any flight. It still has no plans to charter flights for Britons.

A few more British tourists phone and ask what they should do and I repeat the advice from the embassy: "Stay inside."

TUESDAY MAY 19

About 1,800 Britons have left the country in the past three days. The Foreign Office urges all Britons still in Indonesia to leave within 24 hours.

4am: After spending the night packing, we pick up Mary and her two children Khalil, 5, and Alice, 3, and go to the station to catch the 5am train. Some of the teachers in our group are already there. Everyone already looks exhausted, sleepless with worry.

8.30am: Mary and I go to the British Embassy with the children. I need a visitor's visa for Rian and to put Clara on to my passport. The embassy officials ask us to come back in the afternoon. There is a slight scene and they agree to do it straight away. Clara's stamp in my passport is small and unimpressive but costs £11.

10am: Ken goes to the airport. After half an hour he phones and tells us to leave as quickly as we can. Crowds are gathering and he is worried that roads may be closed.

11am: The taxi to the airport goes through Chinatown. Hundreds of shops are burnt out, all windows smashed and *Pribumi* (ethnic Indonesian or Muslim) spray-painted on doors. It is clear why Ken encouraged us to leave. The taxi driver keeps changing his route as we come across crowds. The children point at the army tanks on the streets. Near the airport the congestion is much worse. When we arrive we can hardly get inside the doors. The crowd is huge — mainly ethnic Chinese Indonesians, very few foreign expatriates, most of whom have already left.

British Airways cannot find our names on the waiting list, so we join the long queue for a flight to Singapore. Ken goes to the British Airways office to find out why we were not on the list. We take it in turns to stand in the Singapore queue, watch the children, queue for food and look after the luggage. After insistent persuasion, British Airways issues our tickets and says we are on the waiting list for the regular 7.15pm flight (full price: £150) and says the British Embassy has requested an extra flight to Kuala Lumpur leaving Jakarta at 3.15am.

André takes our passports and tickets and goes to pay our exit tax of 1 million rupiah each (then about £35). He returns after three hours. Only three windows are open for the thousands of people to pay their exit tax.

Now armed with tickets and tax receipts, we try to get into the departure hall and to the British Airways check-in desk. The crowd is a heaving mass and we inch our way forward. Mary carrying Clara and shepherding Khalil and Alice, and me carrying Rian.

Everyone has given up trying to be polite, and we all barge on in the general direction we want to take. The children are quiet, overwhelmed by the tightness of the crowd and the heat.

British Airways says we cannot check in until six o'clock, when it will start announcing which of the people on the waiting list have got a seat. The four children bounce on the weighing-in ramps and Ken remonstrates. This combination works, and eventually we all get boarding passes and inch our way to immigration and our last queue.

5.45pm: The immigration officer is not satisfied with Clara's documentation. We inch back into the main hall to the immigration office. The heat is tremendous. The air conditioning cannot cope with the thousands of people packed into a small space. We queue and eventually reach the office, and are sent to the head of immigration, as it is a serious problem. He is very accommodating and gives us an exit permit for Clara.

7.30pm: We reach the departure lounge and feel as if we are almost there, even though the flight will be very delayed. BA representatives offer us cartons of orange juice.

10pm: The plane finally takes off. The children fall asleep.

WEDNESDAY MAY 20

The threat of a military response forces opposition leaders to cancel a million-strong march on central Jakarta.

2.30am: We arrive in Kuala Lumpur. We are exhausted and slightly tipsy from the mini-bottles of wine on the plane. Flight attendants say that representatives from the British High Commission will meet us "and perhaps offer some tea". Three slightly dazed-looking men hand out photocopied lists of hotels. No "are you OK?" No "is there anything we can do?" Somebody remembers what day it is and sings *Happy Birthday* to me.

The children climb a barrier separating the immigration queues and fall off. Rian and Clara insist on being carried, which I cannot manage. One of my friends has the unhappy job of carrying a screaming child as well as various bits of my luggage.

3.30am: We arrive at the Hyatt Hotel with Ken, Mary, a colleague, and her two children. It is fully booked with people from Jakarta, so we have to go to a different hotel. It feels as if we will never arrive anywhere. Alice, Mary's three-year-old, has left her bag in the taxi, the last straw for her.

4am: We finally get a hotel room. I give Rian and Clara some milk and after a while they stop snivelling and fall asleep. I am too tired to clean my teeth and fall asleep, too, after 24 hours of travelling.

10am: I try to pay for last night. But the hotel or the airline has lumped us in with the passengers of the 7.15pm flight who are going on to London. They get a free night in the hotel because the flight, instead of going straight on to London, turned back to Jakarta to pick up a second lot of (fare paying) passengers, so we get a free night, too.

2pm: Agung says Bandung is eerily quiet. I am watching satellite TV in the hotel room. Jakarta looks tense, more and more demonstrators gathering at the parliament building. All the roads into Jakarta are blocked and no trains or buses are going from Bandung to Jakarta.

4pm: My mum has a flight with Malaysian Airways (return £375, British Airways £1,300), arriving on Friday. My dad is coming, too. They will stay in Kuala Lumpur until Wednesday and take Rian and Clara back with them. My mum is in super-efficiency overdrive and has already had her typhoid injections. I am thrilled they are coming. With Rian and Clara being looked after, I will be able to think more objectively about what it is going to be like to live in Indonesia for the next few months, and whether it is the right thing for us.

THURSDAY MAY 21

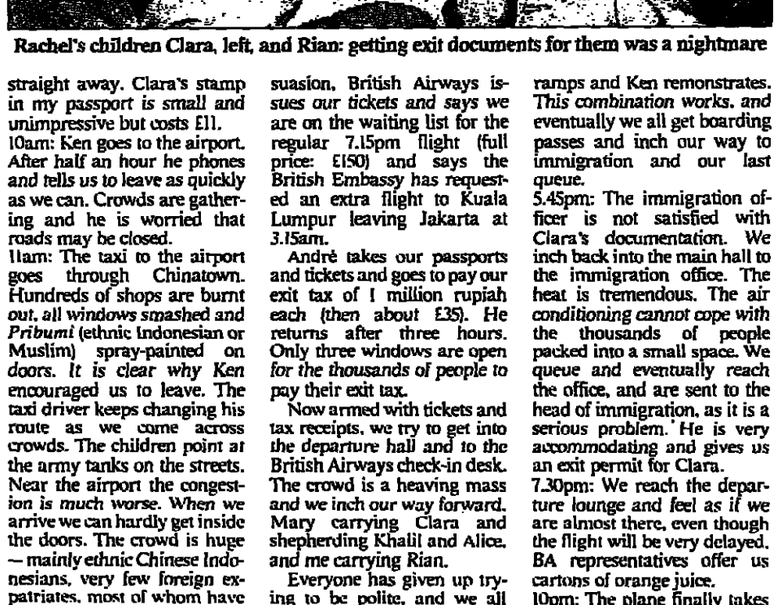
President Suharto announces his resignation.

Travel, Page 26: Bulletin Board, latest advice for travellers to Bali.

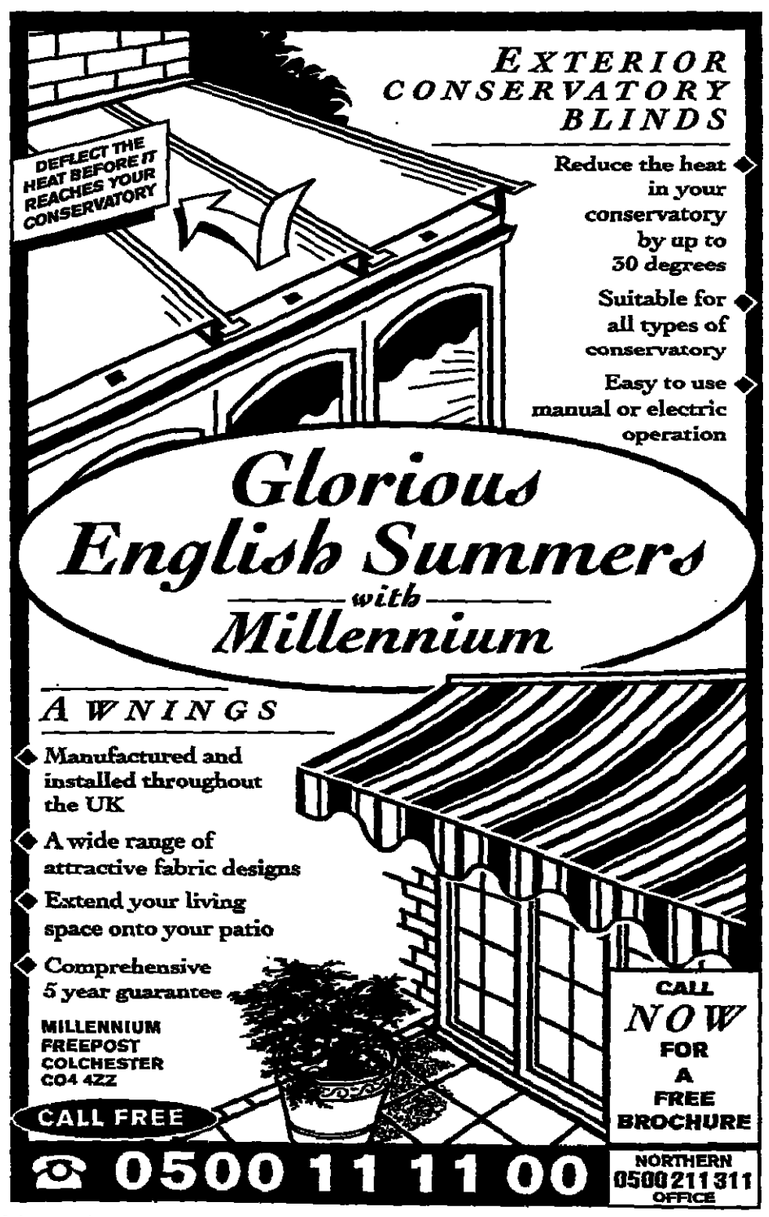


Rachel's children Clara, left, and Rian: getting exit documents for them was a nightmare

REUTERS



Six people were killed when police opened fire on demonstrators at a university





هكذا من الأصل

Anne Robinson



● A WONDERFULLY sunny, 6am, May-morning drive along the back road from Quenington to Fairford to get the newspapers. En route I realise I could easily fill my freezer.

Pheasants, hares and rabbits scatter. But not always fast enough for their own good. The question is what do you brake for? And what, in the interests of sound husbandry, is it OK to approach with your foot firmly on the accelerator?

I'm not sure. Over lunchtime drinks in our local I consult my Annabel farmer friends. (So called by me because they not only farm but also wear lovely soft pastel cashmere sweaters, honey coloured Gucci loafers and like occasionally to drop in to Annabels.) Bond Street pub attire aside, they who deal with life and death on a daily basis are impressively knowledgeable on countryside matters.

Hares, it is decided, on balance and in the interests of fair play, should be allowed to make their way to the verge. (They don't do much harm to crops.) Pheasants, too, but for less altruistic reasons. They are likely to be wild ones. And it doesn't make economic sense to mow one down. Particularly a hen. She is capable of finishing off your headlamp in the act of dying. More importantly, she could be sitting on a nest of ten eggs. "So that's 11 birds you've lost in one go." Lost being in the context of 11 fewer for a shotgun to aim at in August.

As for the little bunny rabbits, the more of those you knock off the better . . .

● IT WAS an item on Teletext's News in Brief which had set me thinking and despairing of the unbridgeable gap between town and country. A paragraph recounting how two baby rabbits had been saved from certain death by a quick thinking and a caring passer-by as they were about to fall into the abyss of a quarry somewhere in South Wales. Even I have now lost enough plants and shrubs in my garden to laugh out loud at this sort of gushy emotional nonsense. Our part of Gloucestershire is plagued with rabbits. A serious problem for farmers. I tell them about the heroic piece of life-saving. And then help to pick three of them up off the pub floor.

● THE NEXT day the pheasant on the road is still bothering me. Why is it that only the wild ones are walking to Fairford? Do reared pheasants have better road sense?

Another sunny early morning and, dog walking, I pass one of my farmer friends. He of the movie star looks. But not now in Gucci loafers. Instead, impressively out at the crack, dressed for feeding his livestock. The reared pheasants, Anthony explains, get fed grit which is vital for their diet. The wild ones go on to the roads to find it.

He then calls me over to the back of his Land Rover and pulls out a five-day-old lamb. Its body is intact but its head is gone. The fox has had it during the night.

A bit of harsh reality. Not nearly cute enough to make it as a dinky News in Brief item on Teletext.

● MY daughter Emma, now aged 27, recently wrote in a newspaper about her "Absolutely Fabulous" childhood and her gold-medal-shopping mother. No surprises here. And a good enough excuse this week to lunch at Harvey Nicks. Outside, on the Fifth Floor terrace.

Alas, not a Patsy or an Edina in sight. Instead, the other tables look to be disappointingly Home Counties. Or very "bridges and tunnels", as New Yorkers disparagingly say when a once-smart Manhattan eaterie gets discovered and taken over by those in on a drive from New Jersey.

Never mind, my guest for lunch is pretty chic. That most stylish of documentary film makers, Sally Doganis. An avowed townee, she tells me the tale of a Greek ship-owning friend. One not versed in the ways of the country who, in Scotland on his first shoot, was about to fire on an unsuspecting pheasant ambling along. "No, no!" exhorts his host. "Never, never, aim your gun at a bird walking by." "Ah!" says the powerful Greek amiably. "I understand. I wait 'til he stops."

● SALLY was a judge for this year's Royal Television Society Awards at which Jeremy Paxman took Interviewer of the Year for his encounter with Michael Howard when, memorably, he asked the then Home Secretary 14 times if he had ever threatened to overrule prisons chief Derek Lewis.

For those of us who find the sport of hounding politicians on television as much fun as farmers find fox hunting, these toe-curling few minutes of live broadcasting were — well — better than sex. (Although privately I've remained a bit bothered as to why a Home Secretary shouldn't overrule a prison chief.)

In his acceptance speech Paxman said the 14 questions had only arisen because, down his ear piece, two minutes into the interview, came his producer telling him the next item had fallen apart, and to keep going.

Was it true? Sally and I don't know. But agree, either way, as my Emma would say, it was a "cool" tale to tell.

Audience with the emperor

Alan Hamilton describes the rare privilege of meeting Akihito of Japan and visiting his palace

The spacious room, its minimalist furnishing and decoration relieved only by a deep-pile lemon-yellow carpet and its floor-to-ceiling windows opening to a arboretum, could be the Milton Keynes headquarters of an oriental electronics company. And the small man in the well-tailored grey suit entering at the far end could be the chairman.

But this is no boardroom; it is the audience chamber of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, and the small man at whose entrance courtiers bow deeply, is Akihito, 125th emperor of Japan and the first to begin his reign as a mere mortal.

Nine Europeans are drilled with military precision into a receiving line by the Vice-Master of the Ceremonies, who briefs us on etiquette. We will not have to bow and handshaking is uncommon between Japanese, who regard it as too intimate for everyday greeting, but the emperor is quite agreeable to pressing the flesh with foreign devils.

Imperial conversation is not unlike British royal conversation — safely anodyne, only more so, especially when passed through the additional filter of an interpreter. The Imperial Household Agency, the vast and conservative bureaucracy which runs the emperor's life, is more rigorous even than Buckingham Palace at keeping its constitutional monarch free of the slightest political taint. A Duke of Edinburgh figure firing off bursts of crusty ire would be unthinkable, as would a Crown Prince who took up the cudgels against ugly buildings.

We gently prod the Emperor for memories of his visits to Britain, beginning with the Coronation in 1953. After a long pause, he recalls with fondness staying at Windsor Castle in 1976, and being taken by the Queen and Princess Margaret to Ascot races. "We rode on horses," comes the translation. We think he means that they rode in a carriage procession.

We have done our homework and remark that the Emperor is a great admirer of King George V. This prompts a lengthy and animated reply; his father Hirohito met the King in London in 1921, and returned with a taste for constitutional monarchy and English breakfasts. Akihito has read Harold Nicolson's fine biography of George V, as well as Walter Bagehot's Victorian treatise on the English Constitution.

He repeats Bagehot's dictum that the duty of the monarch is to advise, encourage and warn. Did one detect, at that moment, a hint of wistfulness in his tone? The Japanese emperor, rigidly bound by the postwar constitution imposed by General MacArthur, has no such function. The emperor cannot do; he can only be.

Be that as it may, the burning question of the moment can be delayed no longer. How does the Emperor feel about the fact that a number of former prisoners-

towards the Japanese, and would be more amenable to next week's state visit if they received an unqualified apology from Tokyo?

The Emperor is quite prepared for this. Choosing his words with care, he says he believes it important to put oneself in the position of others, and strive to have a full sense of the pain in their hearts. He is in fact repeating what he said a few days before at a press conference in reply to a question from a Japanese reporter. The question of demonstrations, he adds, is "hypothetical".

Now there's a thing: the Emperor, remote, sanitised, mysterious and powerless, holds press conferences. He has one before every state visit abroad, and once a year on his birthday. They are not the bunfight that might develop were the Queen ever to face the Fleet Street ratpack; the Japanese media is respectful and discreet in its royal coverage.

Much more of a rarity than an imperial press conference is the very fact that we are here at all having an audience with the Chrysanthemum Throne in person, a fair indication of anxiety in Tokyo that the state visit should not be hijacked by the prisoner-of-war issue, or by the recent bursting of the Japanese economic bubble.

Holding separate court in our audience room is the Empress Michiko, in full kimono fig with white flip-flops over her white socks. She is happy to converse in English, but in a high, soft and barely audible voice. A translator of Japanese children's poetry into English, she talks of her impending visit to the Bodleian Library at Oxford to see the Opie collection of children's literature which she helped save from sale abroad.

"I made contact with several influential people in Japan who could make donations," the Empress says, smiling her sweet fixed smile.

Her lady-in-waiting, a retired diplomat's wife with impeccable English, rescues the faltering conversation with an anecdote about how the Empress was recently reunited on the phone with her old British school pen-pal Rosalind Grant, now a social worker in Orkney.

Rosalind was invited to the state banquet in London to meet her old and now much-elevated correspondent from the Sacred Heart school on Tokyo, but decided that a return journey from Kirkwall to London was a trip too far.

The audience, scheduled for 30 minutes, lasts an hour. The imperial couple eventually make their exit, to the accompaniment of more fevered bowing from courtiers, through a sliding wood-and-paper door. They leave behind an aura of impeccable mannered civility, charm, and not the slightest clue as to who they really are.

As we are in the Imperial Palace, we are given a rare and privileged tour. The grounds, richly wooded and splendidly tended, cover a quarter of central Tokyo, yet



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in their coronation robes. The Japanese are anxious that their state visit to Britain should not be hijacked by the prisoner-of-war issue



The Emperor and Empress in western clothes. He is a keen admirer of British culture

the public is allowed in only twice a year, on the imperial birthday and at New Year, when they may approach the palace for an imperial family balcony appearance.

The present palace, built in 1968, is long, low and modernist: it could be a Japanese pavilion at an Expo. The old granite-built 1930s palace nearby, which could pass for the Bulgarian Ministry of Coalmining both inside and out, is now the offices of the 1,122-strong imperial bureaucracy.

We are allowed further, to see the Emperor's personal Shinto shrine, his rice paddy where he plants a token crop each year, harvesting it as an offering at the aforesaid shrine, his laboratory where he pursues his consuming interest in marine biology and his private quarters, which we cannot see through the trees, but which we are assured are "a plain and modest government house".

Our guide is much more keen to show us the Imperial Bonsai Nursery. It grows miniature trees for state occasions and has hundreds of them in varied retarded stages of stunted growth. Its prize specimen is a Japanese juniper, 600 years old but still barely three feet high, and with a tiny trunk as gnarled as the most elderly English oak.

Makoto Watanabe, Grand Chamberlain to the Emperor and the approximate equivalent to Sir Robert Fellowes at Buckingham Palace, is anxious to assure us that, for all the formality of the palace, the Imperial Family has a strong desire to be open and in touch with their people. He recalls the Kobe earthquake disaster of 1995 when, in a revolution of imperial body language, Emperor and Empress actually knelt down to comfort victims.

There is nothing for it but to watch the Chrysanthemum Throne in action. They are spending two days in Gunma prefecture, 70 miles north of Tokyo, and their first call is at a school for mentally handicapped children. A respectable, if hardly enormous, crowd has turned out to see them, but as the royal motorcade drives up it is greeted by silence, the only sound being the rustle of dozens of paper flags waved in enthusiastic greeting. A court official explains that the Japanese are naturally shy, and would be embarrassed to shout, however loyally.

The Empress gets out of the car first and, as the Emperor emerges, she bows to him and they set off for the first of the day's bowing sessions with her walking a subservient three steps behind him.

They are followed by a 20-strong entourage which, with the sole exception of one lady-in-waiting, is exclusively male, dark-suited and respectfully silent. Follow the Queen's entourage on an official visit, and you will not fail to notice the braying voices at the back cheerfully debating the latest cricket score. The other difference is that, in the imperial party, there is not a single military uniform.

At the school door everyone, including the royals, has to take off their shoes and don slippers. As the party moves round the classrooms and workshops, Emperor and Empress are assiduous in ensuring that every child is spoken to, smiled at, and, in the Empress's case, occasionally patted on the cheek. But, on the whole, the imperial body language remains stiff and precise; in that respect, the Empress is slightly reminiscent of Queen Mary.

Next day, the royal couple attend a symbolic tree planting ceremony on National Arbour Day, an annual nationwide ritual in which trees are planted to ensure the regeneration of Japanese forests; this could be regarded as a bit of a hypocrisy from the country which has virtually cleared the tropical forests of Malaysian Borneo to make plywood and chopsticks.

But it is done with great ritual and 10,000 people are gathered on the hillside to watch. A full symphony orchestra plays the Emperor in to the entirely unexpected strains of *Land Of Hope and Glory*, just one of thousands of examples of how this country has soaked up western influences since it opened itself up to the wider world in the mid-19th century.

When the Emperor rises to speak, so too does the entire hillside; it is disrespectful to listen to him while sitting down. He speaks platitudes on the need to conserve the forests, and is rewarded with applause.

At the end of the day the Vice-Chamberlain of the Imperial Household Agency holds a press conference. He distributes a piece of paper which states that the number of people who met the emperor that day, or watched his passage from the roadside, was 36,569.

"It's an average crowd; the police count them," says the Grand Chamberlain. "But I must admit they are sometimes a little inflated."

Public opinion polls in Japan indicate up to 80 per cent satisfaction with the imperial status quo, but they still feel they have to cook the books.

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SHOP WATCH

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■ **Debbie Bliss**, a knitwear designer with ten books to her name, has just opened a shop selling children's knits. She has also branched into her own-label traditional gingham dresses and bed linen, and antique-style toys. Debbie Bliss, 365 St John's Street, London EC1 (0171-833 8255).

■ **Rocombe Farm**, makers of organic ice-cream, will dispatch it to you by post, packed in dry ice. Order a hamper of five pots for £29.95 (including delivery) and munch your way through the likes of stem ginger, crunchies 'n' cream or a delicious vanilla. Orders on 01626 834545.

■ If the only chance you get to shop is at the supermarket,

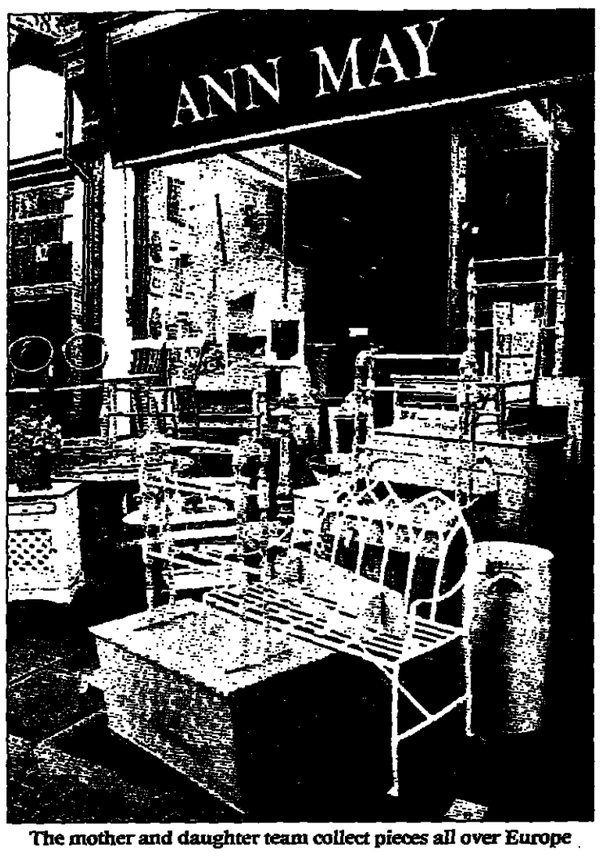


Make-up from Tesco

you will be delighted with **Tesco's** latest launch — of cosmetics created by make-up supremo Barbara Daly. In two weeks, as you cruise the aisles, you can try its budget cosmetics, all on sale for less than £5. Call 0181-682 2277 for details.

■ **Annie Sloan**, whose paint effects sparked frenzies countrywide, has opened a workshop in Oxfordshire. Visit the shop for a full range of paints, books and kits or explore the intricacies of gilding or wood-graining. Find her at Weston Business Park, Weston on the Green, Oxfordshire (0870 6010082).

■ UPDATE: **David Linley's** furniture shop is expanding into the space next door. Look out for his one-off Russian desk and the launch of his exclusive linen collection. You will find them at 60 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (0171-730 7300) . . . For babies jetting off to far-flung destinations, the cot mosquito net (£9.99) from **Jo-Jo's** summer mail order catalogue, is a must. Call 0171-352 5156.



The mother and daughter team collect pieces all over Europe

Baubles and backchat

CHRISTOPHER BARKER



Caroline Charles, right, has been buying furniture — and gleaning inspiration for her designs — from Ann May for the past ten years

Mike Cable enters the family fray with Caroline Charles, designer to the Royals

my favourite shop

The shop may be called Ann May & Daughter, but the relationship between its owners is more like that of Steptoe and Son. "We fight like cat and dog," says Annie Rollings, whose grandmother started the shop as a second-hand junk store. Now it specialises in decorative furniture, pine and antiques to furnish the fashionable dwellings of Fulham.

"There is a history of strong women in our family and my mother and I both like to run the place our own way," says Annie, 44. "We've even been known to fight in front of the customers. So now we try to keep out of each other's way by arranging to come in on different days."

This colourful clash of personalities behind the counter is part of the appeal for royal dress designer Caroline Charles who has been dropping in regularly for the past ten years, not only to buy pieces to furnish and decorate her flagship shop in Beauchamp Place and her weekend home in the country, but also to find inspiration for the colours, textures and patterns of her fabric designs.

"I love Annie and her mother because they're so sort of gassy," she says. "And I like people who talk back to you, who have a sense of humour that is a bit oblique and who have an eye for funny things that are really charming, and work together even though they don't look as if they ought to match."

Ms Charles tends to hide her dry sense of fun behind an austere public image — always dressing in black, with her dark hair cut short and a quietly abrupt, businesslike manner. "I like wearing black because it makes getting dressed easier," she explains, browsing among the antique furniture, mirrors, china and other eye-catching pieces for which Annie and her mother go foraging — separately, of course — all over Europe.

"My wardrobe is limited. I've honed it down to what suits me best and what I need. Basically, there are three black suits and three white T-shirts that I can just jump into. I like to put all my feelings about what is extraordinary into my work and not into what I'm wearing."

Although Ms Charles has a high profile among stylish dressers, she is remarkably self-effacing; for her, the prospect of joining her models on the catwalk is as enticing as jumping into a cold swimming pool. "It's a nightmare," she says with a visible shudder.

Despite being a successful designer, who is happily married with two grown-up children, she admits to being intimidated socially by the constant pressure to live up to people's high expectations.

"I sometimes don't go to parties just because I feel I can't look the way people want me to look," she says. "Anybody in public life feels that pressure, but to be in public life as a dress designer is agony because you are aware that you are preaching your style and wondering whether it is good enough." Not that she has any reason for self-doubt. In her 33-year career, Ms Charles has dressed hundreds of women, from pop stars to princesses, while building a successful business empire which includes bed linens and home furnishings.

She always wanted to be a fashion designer and after art school she worked briefly for Mary Quant before setting up on her own in 1963 at the age of 21. The Beatles, Lulu and Petula Clark were among her early clients. Her secret, she believes, is creating simple designs "flattering to the body, with clean lines and beautiful materials".

She is reluctant to discuss her clients, but is known to have been a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales. The list also includes Princess Margaret, Emma Thompson, Barbra Streisand, Kylie Minogue and Cherie Blair. "Cherie Blair is a great example of modern Britain — a working woman, doing many things and looking sleek," she says.

Ms Charles has reason to be thankful to Labour's "first lady". At a department store in Japan, in Caroline Charles's section, there are photographs of our Prime Minister and his wife both holding up Caroline Charles bags. "There's never been a Prime Minister so helpful to the designer business," she says.

A less welcome accolade was when she recently became one of a select group of top designers targeted by thieves who stole more than £31,000 worth of clothes from her shop. "I'm flattered that somebody wants the clothes that much," she says.

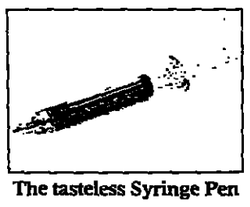
● *Ann May & Daughter, 80 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 (0171-731 0862). Open Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm.*

GADGETS

POSSIBLY the most tasteless gadget of the year, the Syringe Pen is also one of the funniest. This ballpoint pen is disguised as a medical syringe, complete with red "blood" sloshing around in its cavity.

To use the pen, you click the plunger. It is released with a button on the side. Producing the pen always prompts an incredulous response from those around you. The sharp intakes of breath that accompany its use are a tribute to how authentic it looks. Although red might have been appropriate, it actually writes in blue ink.

Proving that the pen is mightier than the sword, the Syringe Pen also boasts a secondary use. Should you find yourself standing up and



The tasteless Syringe Pen

squashed like a sardine in a rush-hour train, whip out the pen and you can rid your surroundings of passengers.

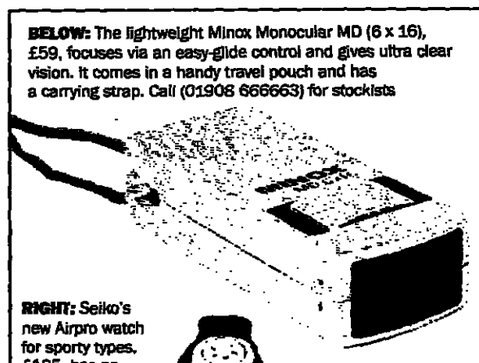
SOMETHING else which never fails to shock are the hourly bird-chirp chimes of the gloriously tacky Bird Song Clock. The clock, about 12in across, is made from white plastic but the case is brown and black which, for just a moment, looks like real wood. In place of the 12 numerals are pictures of birds and, on the stroke of each, you get three bursts of relevant birdsong.

Battery-powered, the clock could do with a volume control since the samples are loud enough to make you jump out of your seat. Some birdsongs are instantly familiar, like the *Cuculus canorus* (cuckoo), while others sound more like an electronic toy gun effect. The clock does not chime between 10pm and 5am.

TIM WAPSHOT

● *The Syringe Pen, around £1.50, from Eddingtons (01488 686565). Bird Song Clock, £33.90 plus p&p, from Modern Originals (0870-600 6001).*

BELOW: The lightweight Minox Monocular MD (6 x 16), £59, focuses via an easy-glide control and gives ultra clear vision. It comes in a handy travel pouch and has a carrying strap. Call (01908 666663) for stockists



ABOVE: Take out your World Cup anxiety on the Fussball table, £99.99, from Hamleys (0171-734 3161). Once assembled from the flat pack the table can be adjusted to the preferred height (71-84cm)



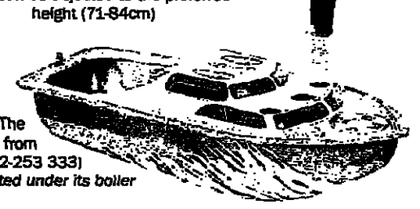
RIGHT: Forget dragging cords around with your tool kit. The Versapak variable five-speed drill VP7251C. £60, is cordless and rechargeable. Call (01753 574 277) for stockists



RIGHT: Seiko's new Airpro watch for sporty types, £185, has an inflatable strap to ensure a snug fit. An air pump under the six o'clock marker pumps air into the strap and a release valve above the 12 o'clock marker releases it. From Browns Focus (0171-491 7833)

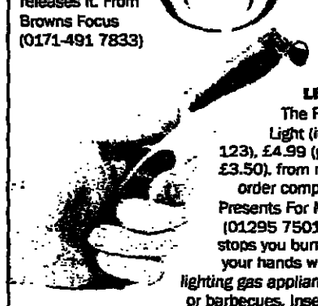


LEFT: Enjoy messing around with boats? The tin Pop-Pop boat, £9.80 (p&p £2.95), from mail order company Nauticalia (01932-253 333) propels itself when a lit candle is inserted under its boiler



Toys for the Boys

LEFT: The Flick Light (item 123), £4.99 (p&p £3.50), from mail order company Presents For Men (01295 750100) stops you burning your hands when lighting gas appliances or barbecues. Insert a standard disposable lighter and it is ready to use



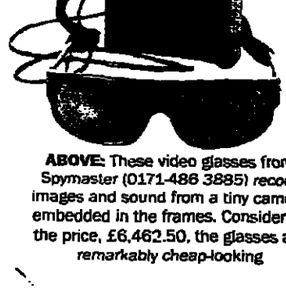
Contrary to popular belief, not every male is obsessed with expensive and pointless gadgets. Many males are, however, which is a source of unceasing wonder to women who can't see the attraction of a £6,000-pair of sunglasses with a built-in camera, or of a boat for the bath that runs on candle power. If only women realised that it is they who triggered mens' gadget obsession in the first place.

Men are creatures of habit. We get frustrated when we can't lay our hands quickly on one of our favourite possessions. And then we get upset, because the reason we can't is because our female partner regularly reorganises our storage system, a system which centres around what in technical jargon is known as a "pile" next to our side of the bed. Although this "pile" seems to have been amassed randomly, it is as organised as a beehive. Then along comes a reorganising woman and puts the books on the bookshelves, the trainers in the closet, the clothes in the laundry basket, until everything is in its proper place. And that's the beauty of gadgets. There's no designated place for them. She just has to leave it right there!

Gadgets are a man's way of protecting his "pile". (Oh, Jane, leave this newspaper on the floor by the bed. I might need it in the next decade.)

JOE JOSEPH

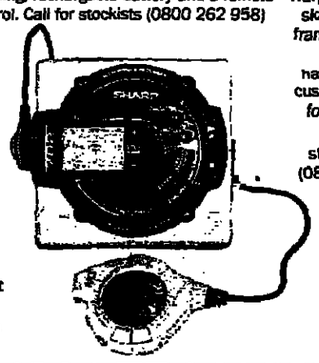
ABOVE: These video glasses from Spymaster (0171-486 3885) record images and sound from a tiny camera embedded in the frames. Considering the price, £6,462.50, the glasses are remarkably cheap-looking



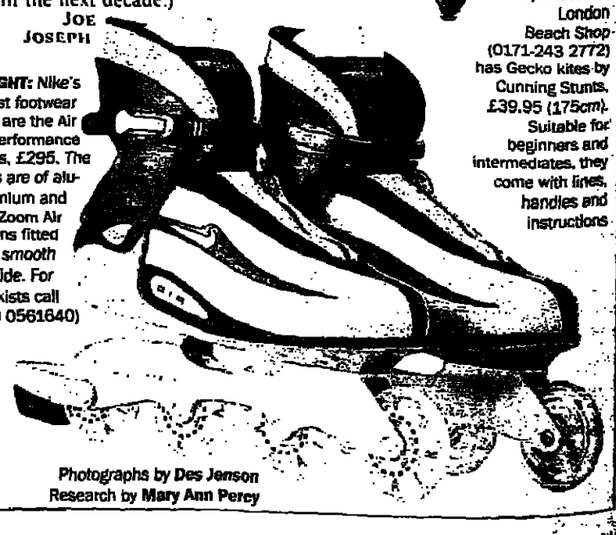
LEFT: Recently opened, The London Beach Shop (0171-243 2772) has Gecko kites by Cunning Stunts, £39.95 (175cm). Suitable for beginners and intermediates, they come with lines, handles and instructions



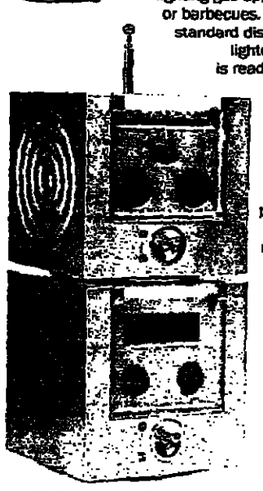
BELOW: Small enough to fit in a trouser pocket, the Sharp portable minidisc recorder MDM5702H, £299.99, offers clear digital recording, rechargable battery and a remote control. Call for stockists (0800 262 958)



RIGHT: Nike's latest footwear trend are the Air Warp performance skates, £295. The frames are of aluminium and have Zoom Air cushions fitted for a smooth ride. For stockists call (0800 0561640)

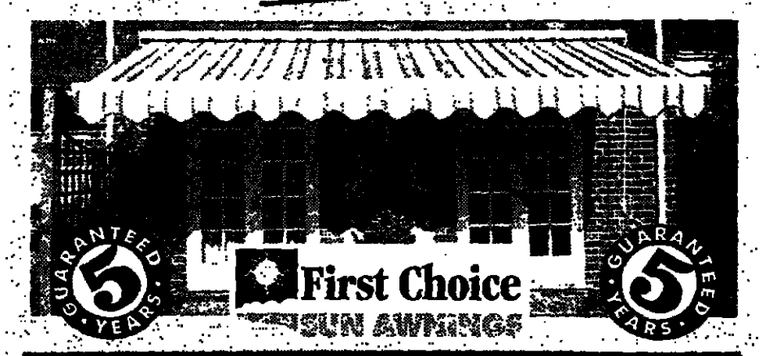


ABOVE: Compact and stackable, the Marksman Cube AM/FM radio, £19.99, and LCD alarm clock, £14.99, both in matt silver, are easy to use and can be bought as a pair or used as separate items. From The Leading Edge (0171-383 3756)



Photographs by Des Jenson
Research by Mary Ann Percy

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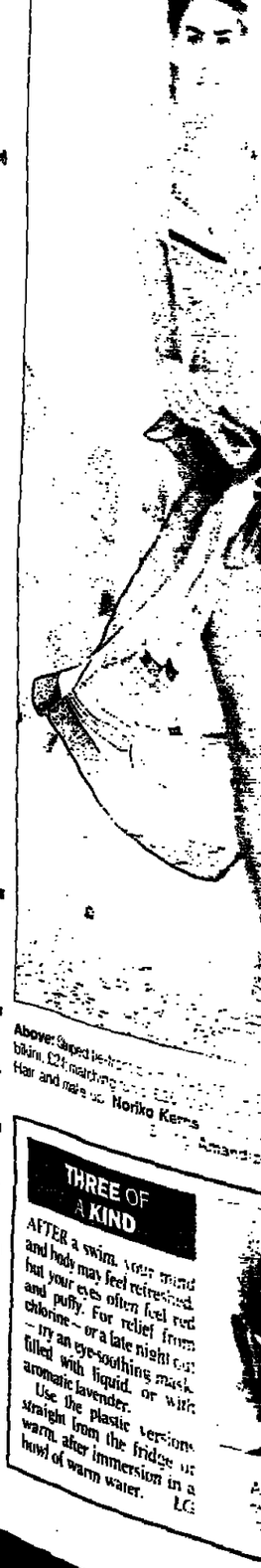
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THREE OF A KIND

AFTER a swim, your mind and body may feel refreshed, but your eyes often feel red and puffy. For relief from chlorine – or a late night out – try an eye-soothing mask filled with liquid, or with aromatic lavender.

Use the plastic versions straight from the fridge or warm, after immersion in a bowl of warm water. LG



Above: Striped bikini, £24; nail varnish, £5; Hair and make-up: Noriko Kerns

هكذا من الأصل





Above: Morgan black suedette bikini, £50; matching skirt, £30, *House of Fraser, selected branches nationwide (0171-963 2236).* **Right:** Light blue bandeau bikini, £90; matching side split skirt, £45, Eres, Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161). Pale blue suede sandals, £190, Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street, W1 (0171-235 6008). **Below:** Black cotton bikini top, £20; matching *pants, £20; black cotton fringed wrap skirt, £20,* Knickerbox, branches nationwide and mail order (0171-823 4437)



Sunkissed bodies under wraps

With this summer's cunning cover-ups, anyone can risk wearing a bikini

If you are one of those women who never thought you could wear a bikini, this is a summer when you might think again. For once, manufacturers have been kind to those of us who feel we have a less-than-perfect figure (that is, probably, about 98 per cent of us) and have developed sleek and sexy two-pieces with a little extra — the matching skirt or sarong.

This is one accessory that no woman will want to be without at the beach or the poolside this season. As well as offering a way to cover up for those casual saunters along the beach or drinks at the poolside bar, these essential extras add a touch of fashion to plain sports shapes.

There are tiny strands of fringed fabric to hang casually around the hips, delicate floral devoré scarves, matching Lycra skirts for sporty swimmers, mid-thigh-length shorts to match bikini tops, and the old favourite, flimsy sarongs, for those who want full-length cover.

It is not just the sporty or classic brands that have produced this helpful little cover-all. Most labels — from Knickerbox to Wolford — have realised that women are self-conscious about their bodies and, while they want to bare them to get that sun-kissed look, they also want to hide bits that are less than perfect.

Sue Mahy, from La Perla, says women are increasingly opting to dress up swimwear with little extras. "Co-ordinating outfits, whether it is a shirt, a pair of jeans or a skirt to complement bikinis, are very popular," she says. "We are also spending much more on our swimwear, and seeing it as an extension of our wardrobes, so quality and cut are becoming more important."

Designers such as Calvin Klein, Dolce & Gabbana, Moschino, Nicole Farhi and Sam de Terán have all expanded their ranges into shorts, skirts and cover-ups to match. Sam de Terán's feminine collection, for example, includes chiffon sarongs, mesh T-shirts and see-through slip-on dresses in floral prints, as well as mini ra-ra skirts in gingham, to match her two-pieces.

It is not only designers who are producing three-pieces. Fenwicks has a pansy-print side-tie short skirt by Huit; Morgan a fringed wrap suedette skirt and giraffe and zebra-print pull-on skirts; Marks & Spencer has snakeskin swimming shorts and sarong, a black crocheted mini, and wrap skirts in fluorescent shades; and Knickerbox a yellow wrap skirt, a cloud-print cover-up and a gold or black skirt (with matching G-string for those who want to bare nearly all).

Who said bathing suits were just *for swimming in?*

LISA GRAINGER





Above: Striped tie-front bikini (M48675), £22.99; matching sarong (M48678), £14.99, Next Directory (0345 100 500). **Right:** White crotcheted bikini, £24; matching tunic, £26, Marks and Spencer (0171-935 4422). Photographs: **Nick Farrell** for Artist Group Management, Los Angeles. Hair and make up: **Noriko Kems** for Estée Lauder using Enlighten SPF10; Compact Disc eyeshadows and Indelible Lipstick in Glamour. Styling. **Amandip Uppal.** Shot at the Mondrian Hotel, Los Angeles (001 213 650 5215)

THREE OF A KIND

AFTER a swim, your mind and body may feel refreshed, but your eyes often feel red and puffy. For relief from chlorine — or a late night out — try an eye-soothing mask, filled with liquid, or with aromatic lavender.

Use the plastic versions straight from the fridge or warm, after immersion in a bowl of warm water. LG



Above left: Gel-filled mask, £5.95, Oscar and Dehn, John Lewis, Fenwicks or Conran (mail order: 0171-267 6110); centre: flax-seed and lavender-filled Eye Pillow, £6.95, Body Works (01923 221411); right: pink fluid-filled large mask, £3.45, The Home Place (0181-208 0708)



Beer and burgers ahoy

This weekend sees the end of colour-coded dried food for the Whitbread British entrants, says Lee Davis

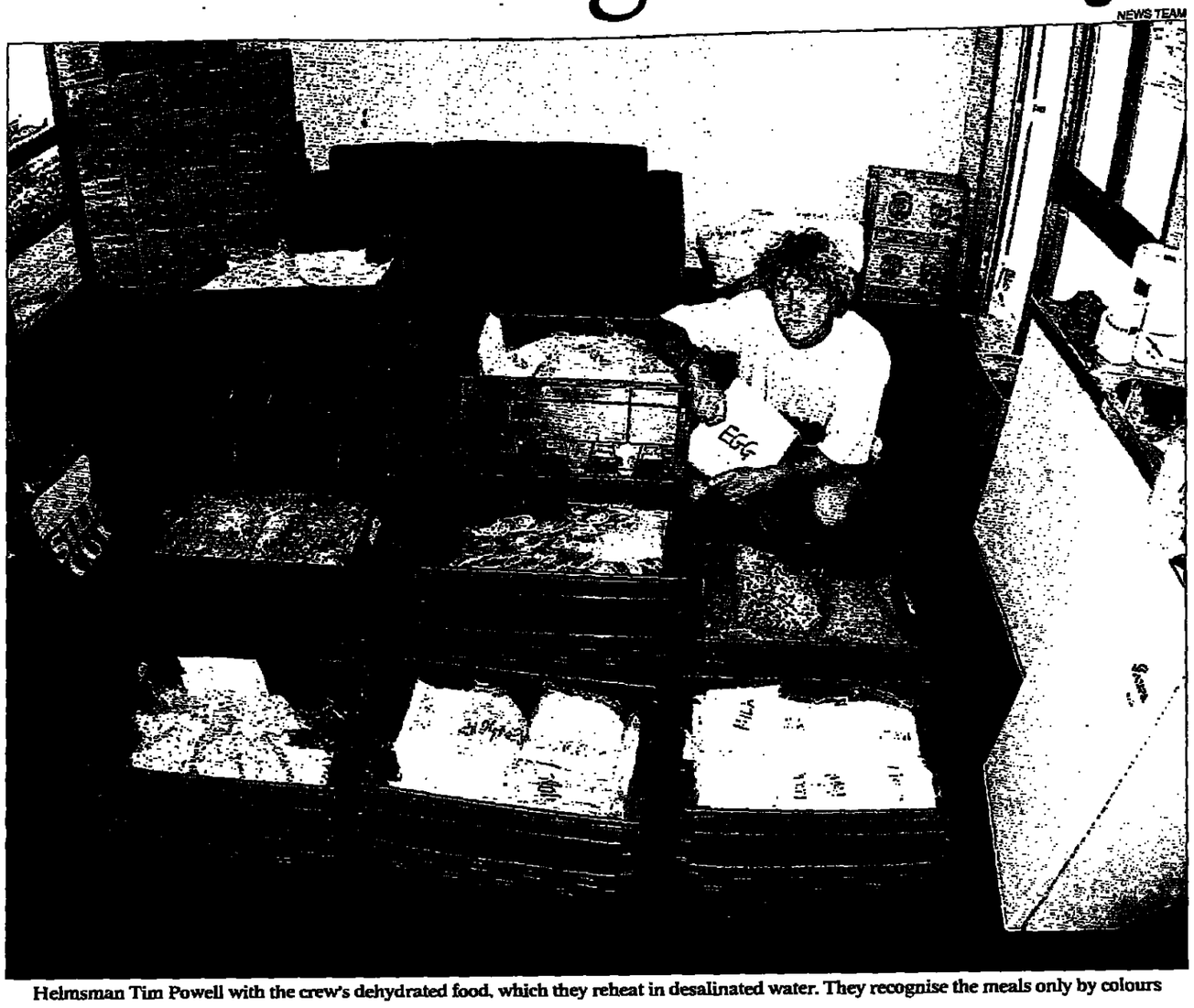
As the epic Whitbread Round the World Race reaches its cliff-hanging climax at Southampton this weekend, there are rumbles of discontent aboard one of the yachts, *Silk Cut*, the British entry in the race.

For nine months the crew have contended with the toughest hardships, including the terror and exhaustion of racing boat-to-boat in the mountainous seas of the Roaring Forties. In a rigorously spartan regime, their only luxury has been a daily bar of chocolate — and sometimes, mysteriously, somebody has had to go without.

As soon as the boat hits land at the end of each leg, the crew head straight for the nearest burger joint. While at sea they have been living on freeze-dried food complemented with rice, pasta and dehydrated mashed potato, boiled up in desalinated water.

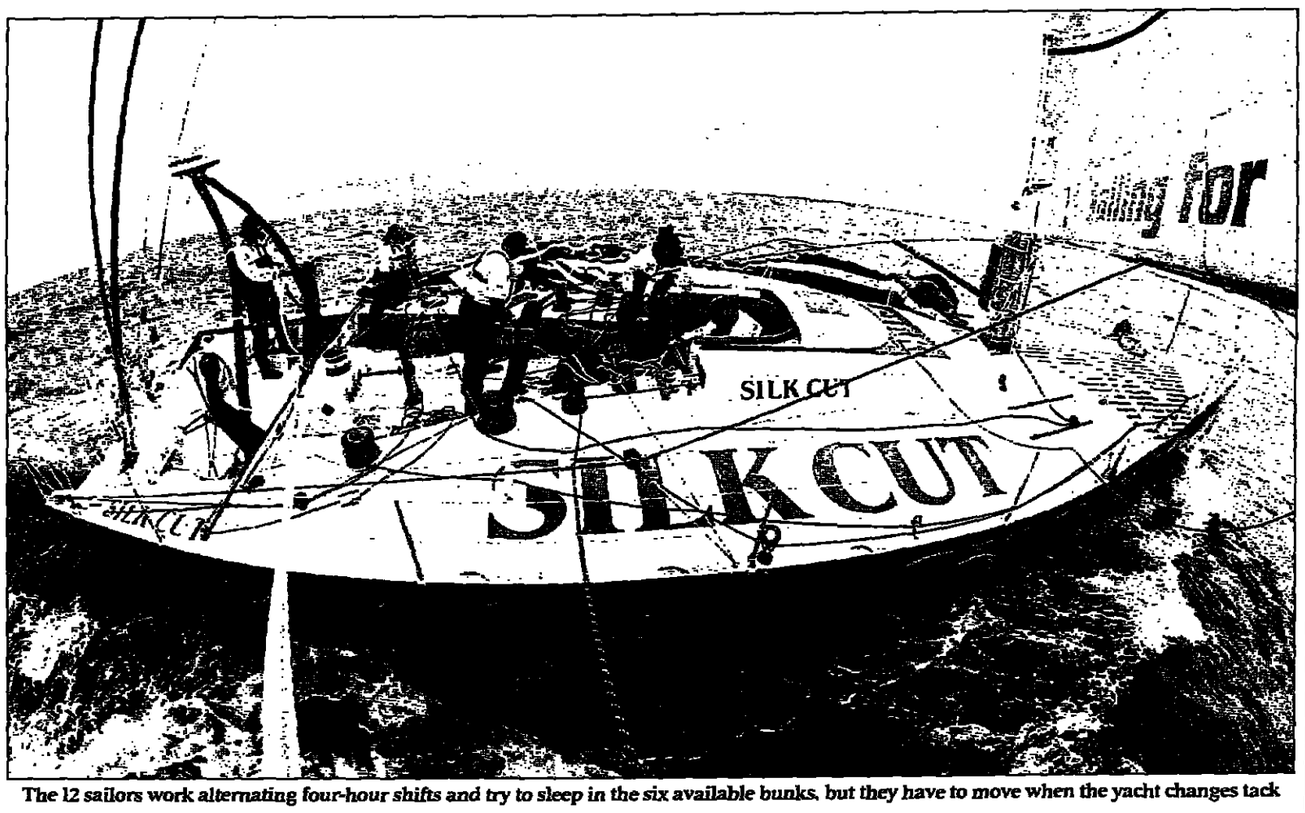
This diet had been meticulously planned. Maggie Page, a sports nutritionist, calculated every carbohydrate and calorie to meet the crew's energy needs, and food adviser Andrew Lane sourced the products. The crew also take supplements of vitamins A, B, C, D and E — if they did not they would begin to have vitamin deficiency problems, like scurvy, within a week to ten days.

Page and Lane calculated a menu that worked on a seven-day cycle and that only altered to meet the needs of each leg. "Porridge and hot cereals on cold legs, cold cereals on the warmer legs," is the laconic summary of Tim Powell, helmsman, trimmer and responsible for managing provisions at sea, now on his second Whitbread race.



NEWS TEAM

Helmsman Tim Powell with the crew's dehydrated food, which they reheat in desalinated water. They recognise the meals only by colours



The 12 sailors work alternating four-hour shifts and try to sleep in the six available bunks, but they have to move when the yacht changes tack

Each evening, one bar of chocolate is issued to each crew member. It is a welcome treat. The rigours of hard competitive sailing in heavy weather take a heavy toll and the nightly comfort of a Mars Bar or a Crunchie can lift the spirits and promote restful sleep. As long as the chocolate thief has not struck.

"The odd chocolate bar does go missing," says Powell. "I pack them all into day bags, so 12 chocolate bars come out that day and sometimes people will miss out because the chocolate thief has struck again. Everybody has their suspicions as to who it might be but we'll have to wait and see."

Much of the food aboard was bought from ordinary shops. "Most of the sauces are standard retail ones. A lot of the dehydrated meat is the type that caterers use in schools and hospitals. We basically used off-the-shelf products but mixed and pre-packed them. The bolognese sauce, for instance, might have extra tomato powder from another product added," explains Mr Lane.

The food is carefully vacuum-packed in plastic bags, each containing a single day's supply. Breakfast is taken from the top of the bag, lunch from the middle and supper from the base. There are biscuits and coffee made with Coffeemate.

The crew eat this sailor's delight from plastic dog bowls with spoons. "They don't really recognise what the food is," says Mr Powell, "they just eat it. Often they just refer to it as a colour. It can be the red stuff or the yellow stuff. They find it hard to identify the actual meat, so they refer to it as yellow with pasta or brown and rice."

So it is not surprising that once ashore they crave stodge, fat, grease, cholesterol and, like any sailor in a strange port of call, copious amounts of alcohol.

What do the carefully counted dehydrated rations really taste like? "It's quite bland," says Mr Powell diplomatically. "Most of the crew don't mind it, but I wouldn't say they like it.

"A lot of the food on board is freeze-dried, which we cook by just adding water and heating it up. There's a lot of rice, pasta and mashed potato which is our staple diet. The whole idea about the food is trying to get the calories while keeping it light."

Weight, or lack of it, is the main concern on all the boats. The crew are not allowed to take a change of clothes, books or personal stereos. Even their own body weight is monitored. The sacrifice of small human comforts is part of the obsessive campaign to make these boats the lightest racing yachts in their class. They are made almost entirely of Kevlar and PVC resin. Below decks, they bear no resemblance to the carpeted and furnished yachts that cruise the coast around Southampton, where the great race started on September 21, 1997.

They are spartan in the extreme: there are no fittings, fixtures or furniture, just bracing struts and bare bulkheads. To save precious kilos, the inside of the hull is not even painted. The 12 crew share six bunks; the galley is tiny and basic compared to the navigation centre which looks like part of the Space Shuttle's cockpit.

To keep the crew well fed and warm on the long, cold Antarctic leg — it is 6,670 nautical miles from New Zealand to São Paulo — their daily calorie intake was raised to about 5,500, more than double the normal adult requirement per day ... not that they always know whether it was day or night. They work four hours on and four off, three times a day. Then they might be lucky to grab six hours' sleep as long as they can stay asleep — they have to change bunks if the boat tacks to keep the optimal weight distribution for racing.

Those calories have to be supplied in meals that are easy to produce. The crew take turns preparing the food. Even Lawrie Smith, the skipper, takes his turn in the galley. But it does not mean they have to enjoy what they eat.

"We do have things to spice it up, like Tabasco," says Mr Powell, "but it comes down to the weight thing. You can't take ketchup or brown sauce because it all adds up. It weighs a lot and doesn't give you any extra goodness."

Drink



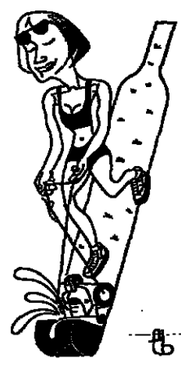
Jane MacQuitty

Despite what some critics say, the sauvignon grape is summer in a glass

Like it or loathe it, the sauvignon grape is summer in a glass. This is the grape that smells like a cross between gooseberries and grass cuttings with asparagus and green bean popping up in the best New World examples for extra (and not always necessary) emphasis.

With such a distinctive, unmistakable and uncompromisingly green scent, the brash sauvignon collars as many brickbats as it does bouquets. Purists like Hugh Johnson are fond of dismissing it as a second-class grape variety, with a pong reminiscent of cats and landladies' stairs. Others grumble about its simple, flagrant fruit-driven style and maintain that its high acidity upsets the stomach and rattles teeth enamel.

Even top Kiwi wine maker Kevin Judd, responsible for the sensational Cloudy Bay Sauvignon, a wine that I could never ever have enough of, claims that though he enjoys "a glass as an aperitif, or with leafy salads, beyond that I struggle with it ... I just cannot drink much of it".



Goodness, why have so few of us got a good word to say about the sauvignon grape? It is true that the sauvignon does not grow old gracefully in the way that chardonnay or riesling does, adding layer after layer of aged, complex flavours as each year goes by. The optimum moment to drink any of the world's zesty sauvignons is usually when their fruit is at its youngest and most mouth-wateringly vibrant. Give a good European sauvignon a few years' bottle age and in general what you get is flatter, duller sauvignon style, occasionally with more herbaceous flavours to the fore; give it a decade or more and, as Loire locals put it, "*Il chardonne*". In other words, it takes on the buttery, nutty cloak of an old bottle-aged chardonnay.

Mr Judd describes Kiwi sauvignons' surly several-years-old patch as their mid-life crisis.

Not far out, given the asparagus and tinned-pea odours you get here. One Kiwi stage on, Judd notes, with relief, a sea-salt, seaweed whiff in his adopted country's sauvignon, before they finally settle down to the more acceptable tasting notes of honeysuckle and lemon toast.

The Loire is still home to some of the world's finest sauvignons which reach their peak on the weird volcano-shaped chalky hill of Sancerre. My favourite Sancerre producer continues to be the Vacheron family whose 1997 Sancerre Les Roches has heaps of verve (Stevens Garnier, next week at Majestic Wine Warehouse, £8.99; 47 West Way, Botley Road, Oxford, £8.95). A good alternative from the other side of the river is the 1997 classic selection Pouilly-Fumé whose elegant, green, minerally flavour is a steal (Sainsbury's, £6.99).

Loire sauvignon's twin peaks of Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé work best with rich seafood like crab and scallops, oysters if you are lucky. However, if you prefer to pay less, the past few years have seen a run of really good Touraine sauvignons, of which the 1997 from the Chapelle de Cray winery is a whiz. Its elegant, fresh, flowery yet gutsy green style makes a great summer aperitif (Sainsbury's, £3.45).

Charting sauvignon's progress overseas has been intriguing. In the early 1980s, California's oak-aged Fumé Blanc-style impressed: Australia followed with versions with and without oak. But it was New Zealand sauvignon, primarily from stony sites in sunny Marlborough on the northern tip of the south island, that has deservedly, since the late 1980s, given French winemakers sleepless nights. To date, top-drawer Kiwi sauvignons like Cloudy Bay are equal to, if not in front of, the best sancerre.

Irritatingly, Cloudy Bay sauvignon sells out the minute it is released.

The next most consistent thing is the 1997 Villa Maria Wairau Valley Sauvignon Blanc (Wine Rack and Bottoms Up, £9.49, August on) from a low-cropping, stony-soil Marlborough site of which 20 per cent was barrel fermented and aged. The result is not a tub-thumpingly oaky wine but a more richly herbaceous Kiwi bottle with the kind of verdant oomph that would go down a treat with the first of the new season's asparagus.

By comparison, Villa Maria's hefty, oily, sweaty 1997 Clifford Bay edition displays the OTT sauvignon characteristics that even I dislike. Instead, drop down a peg to the wondrous 1997 Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc, again a Marlborough wine, whose elegant, fresh, nettley, herby palate tingles with mouth-wateringly zesty fruit (Fullers, Oddbins, Safeway, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, Thresher, Unwins and Victoria Wine, £7.29).

As I said, summer in a glass.

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Port and lemon

EVER since the Methuen treaty of 1703 offered favourable rates of tax to Portuguese wine, port has been the "Englishman's drink". Ritually passed to the left in the fussiest of clubs and at the captain's table, it has traditionally accompanied Englishmen into middle age and beyond. Women, however, as Auberon Waugh has observed, have had a tendency to regard port as their "natural enemy". The act of mating this totem with, of all things, lemonade strikes me as a spectacular act of proto-feminist iconoclasm.

This cheap and cheerful combo peaked before the last war, with ruby port — generally the less expensive blend — being dispensed to Googie Withers types in public bars.

Its decline may be because of changes in lemonade, although it was obviously already dated when the camp creators of *Coronation Street* singled it out as the tipple for poor old Hilda Ogden.

Presentation could involve a quite disproportionate degree of fuss, the measure of port placed solemnly before the customer, usually in a spirit glass, with an open split of fizzy pop. The punter, in whatever state of inebriation, would then wince and struggle to splash the two together. I once witnessed dear Wendy Richards of *EastEnders* fame doing this in an old Covent Garden boozer (with a declining track record of success, it has to be said).

Chances of a comeback on any scale look slim: soap opera stars are not at whom the great port houses aim their produce. Still, with the right faux cockney model, with a certain market trade of chic ... Stranger things have come out of Albert Square and the Rovers Return.

KATE STRONACH



HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

PEOPLE'S eating habits at my restaurant have changed in the past week. The desire for heartier food has evaporated with the gloomy weather. Fish is far more expensive on my menu than meat but about 70 per cent of the main courses ordered are fish.

Despite the fact that when we go out to eat we tend to choose the type of dish that we cannot be bothered to make at home, it seems that the less we do to a dish in the kitchen the more portions we sell. I suspect this is our hankering for Mediterranean holidays and meals where the cook understands that a really cracking piece of fish needs nothing more than to be slapped on the grill and then drizzled with oil, garnished with a fat wedge of lemon and accompanied by a nice glass of local wine.



One of my favourite flavour combinations is the flavoured oil that in Portugal is known as *piri-piri*. For purists, *piri-piri* sauce contains vinegar and is left to macerate in a jar for a week or two; this cheat was developed to avoid the wait.

Piri-piri comes in slender-necked bottles to be drizzled over pizza, chicken or, if left on the table in front of me, over pretty much everything else. I have experimented with different spices and seasonings to come up with what is for me the perfect summer seasoner. I make it using half a litre of extra-virgin olive oil at a time and find that when using the barbecue it is superb drizzled over meats, fish, vegetables and breads. It is best to store it in the fridge and it will keep a week or two.

It is easy to get carried away and use it on everything, which is fine, but drizzle it over food only after you have cooked it as the intense heat of the grill will destroy the more subtle elements of flavour.

Also, while it is worth using extra-virgin olive oil for depth of flavour, I buy the cheapest one I can find.

Place half a litre of olive oil in a stainless steel saucepan. Add three lightly crushed cloves of garlic, two or three small dried red chillies roughly broken up, a teaspoon of sea salt, a strip of lemon zest, a strip of orange zest, a generous pinch of paprika, a pinch of ground cumin and two chopped sun-dried tomatoes. Bring this mix to a gentle simmer and then stew gently on the lowest possible heat for 20 minutes; when heating, follow the golden rule: never leave the pan unattended.

Strain the oil, leave it to cool and store in a sterilised bottle in the fridge. It is far better than anything you can buy in the shops — here or on holiday.

● *The author is head chef at Harvey Nichols Fifth Floor restaurant in Knightsbridge*

STAR BUYS

1997 Winter Hill Reserve Chardonnay, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Waitrose £4.49.



The white wine partner to the red alongside, that together make a great mixed summer buffet or barbecue double act. Like the red, this chardonnay has benefited greatly from extra "reserve" input. The result is a much classier Languedoc chardonnay with plenty of those big, ripe, toasty nutty flavours, that drinkers of this wine adore, plus a firm, oaky backbone

1997 Winter Hill Merlot-Grenache, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Waitrose £3.99



The basic Winter Hill red and white no longer thrill, so trade up to the finer WH varietal range of which this ripe, plummy, zesty wine makes a fine summer red. Upgraded from the previous vintage with one-third of its juice run off hence extra fruity flavour, this 80 per cent merlot comes from three different vineyards, and now has 20 per cent grenache noir blended in.

BEST OF THE REST

Midland wine drinkers get little opportunity to taste, so visit Connolly's at Arch 13, 220 Livery Street, Birmingham (0121-236 9269). Go for the Simon Hackett Australian tasting, Wednesday at 7pm, when he will talk through a range of his red and white South Australia wines. £15 with a buffet supper. Or the New Zealand tasting on June 17, same price, same time.

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The Times Cook

Spring Bank Holiday is the perfect time to take advantage of Britain's home-grown food, such as our new potatoes



Frances Bissell

The Spring Bank Holiday is the perfect occasion to entertain friends from abroad. At this time of year we have a cornucopia of home-grown and home-produced food stuffs from which to choose. Will it be spring lamb or a wild salmon for the main course? And, for the first course, Cromer crab or asparagus from East Anglia? But there is also young spinach and new season's broccoli, possibly even some fresh peas and beans, and certainly home-grown new potatoes.

While the primeurs from the south of France and Spain are very good, our own early vegetables are well worth waiting for, particularly English asparagus; feast on it for the whole of its short season. I have also, this month, eaten some of the best tomatoes ever, miniature plum tomatoes grown in England. They were ripe, yet firm, with an intense and sweet flavour.

May also sees the start of the British new potato season, which runs until the end of July. A fresh new potato is one of the delights of early summer, an experience that no import can match. The very first potatoes and asparagus can be served together, with a poached or boiled egg for dipping, and some crunchy sea salt. It makes one of the best suppers, as well as a simple, elegant first course.

For an even more sumptuous starter, I like to combine asparagus and new potatoes with sweet, fresh



crab meat in a glorious salad. Try to serve this as soon as it is made. If you have to prepare it well in advance and refrigerate it, let it come to room temperature before serving. Crab and asparagus pastries, a crab and asparagus terrine, roasted asparagus with a creamy dressing are other possible starters.

Wild salmon, or sea trout, will follow any of these as an excellent main course, and you have a variety of ways to serve the fish. Leave it whole if you want to poach or bake it, perhaps en croute or even in a bed of salt. Or you might want to serve it cold and garnished. Whichever way you choose, and even if you prefer it filleted, have the fish scaled first. Also, measure its thickness at the thickest point.

To poach a salmon, you need a large fish kettle. Put the salmon on the rack, lower it into the kettle and just cover with water. Next, remove the fish and rack and put to one side. Into the water put half a bottle or so of white wine, some aromatics such as lemon zest, a sliver of ginger, a piece of celery, one of onion, a few handfuls of parsley and watercress stalks, some pepper corns and a bayleaf.

Bring the water to the boil and simmer for about 45 minutes. Bring it to a full boil, and lower in the fish on its rack. Allow the water to come back to simmering point. For a salmon 5cm thick, allow about 17 minutes' poaching time. For 3cm, 4cm and 6cm respectively, allow six, 11 and 25 minutes' poaching. I am indebted to Alan Davidson for this information.

The fish should be carefully lifted out of the kettle, for serving hot, warm or cold. A sauce can be made by reducing some of the cooking liquid, adding some chopped herbs, a little cream and seasoning. New potatoes go so well with salmon that I would probably forego them in the salad. And if I wanted to serve hollandaise sauce with the fish, I would serve asparagus vinaigrette as a first course. If a whole fish is too daunting to cook, have it filleted and divided into neat serving portions, and use something like the recipe below. I have included a recipe for leftover cooked salmon.

A platter of beautifully made farmhouse cheeses from around the British Isles is a must, concentrating on the more unusual goat's cheese, hard and soft as well as blue. It would be nice to accompany these with some good English wine. Recently, we drank a carefully hoarded 1993 Sharpham Vineyard barrel-fermented estate wine, from Devon, which was stunning, full, rich, fragrant and with a long finish — a white wine eminently suited to cheese.

A luscious strawberry vanilla cream tart, lined with white chocolate, would make a splendid pudding, well worth the preparation time. Because of its chocolate lining, the tart does not go soggy, which makes it a good proposition for a long, lazy Sunday lunch.

Crab, asparagus and new potato salad
Serves 8

- 1kg English new potatoes
- 1kg English green asparagus
- 500g white crab meat
- 300ml soured cream, Greek yoghurt, single cream or home-made mayonnaise
- 1 lemon
- Salt
- Pepper
- Finely chopped fresh chives, chervil or dill
- Salad leaves

Scrub and steam or boil the potatoes. Snap the asparagus stalks and boil the tender part in salted water. Skin the potatoes and dice or slice them. Mix them with the asparagus. When cooler, mix them with the dressing. Grate in the lemon zest, add seasoning and the herbs, and fold into the salad. Spoon the potato and asparagus on to the salad leaves, with a heap of fresh crab meat on top. Whole herbs can be used to garnish it.

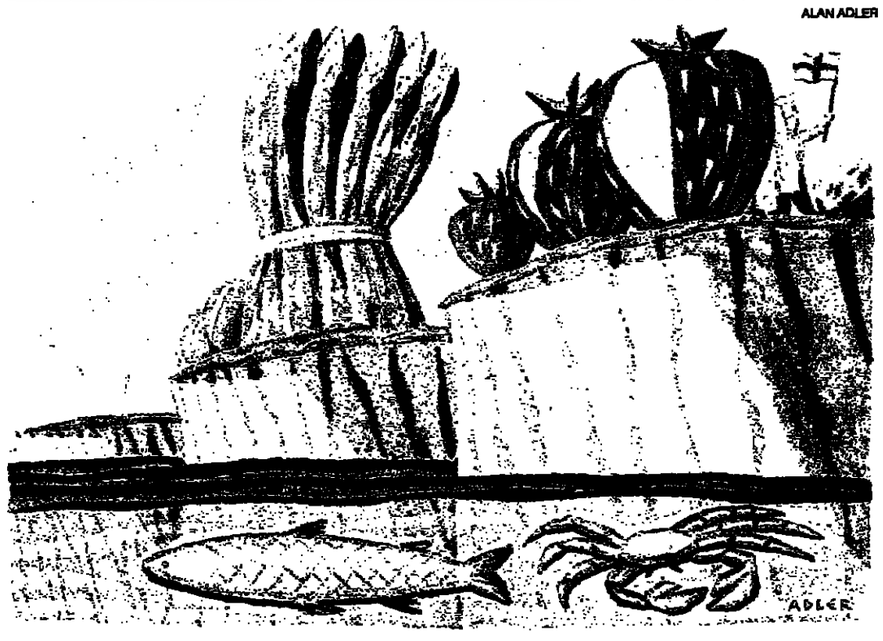
Roasted aromatic salmon
Serves 8

- 8 175-200g pieces wild salmon or sea trout fillet
- Melted butter or olive oil
- Salt
- Pepper
- Grated zest of a lemon and its juice
- 1tbsp spice mix or mild curry paste (see recipe)

Brush the fish with butter or oil. Season it lightly. Put the lemon juice and zest in a bowl and then the spice mixture of your choice. It might be the Moroccan *ras el hanout*, a Lebanese fish spice mixture, Chinese five spice powder, *garam masala*, or a Thai spice mix. You might want something less intrusive and mix a little cinnamon, cardamom, ginger and ground saffron with the lemon.

Rub this mixture into the fish and place skin-side up on a buttered baking sheet. Leave for 10 minutes, and then place in a pre-heated oven at 220C, gas mark 7 for five to ten minutes, or until done to your liking.

ALAN ADLER



Potted Salmon

This is an excellent way of using up cooked salmon; it is better not made in a food processor, which turns it into salmon paste. Use equal quantities of softened unsalted butter and cooked salmon, or slightly more fish, depending on your taste. Season the fish lightly, and pull it apart with two forks until you have a pile of shreds. Either clarified or very soft butter can be used. Stir it into the salmon until well mixed.

Season to taste, adding mace or nutmeg if liked, and pot in a jar or ramekins. Cooked, undyed smoked haddock is very good prepared in the same way.

Strawberry and white chocolate tart in almond pastry
Serves 8

- 300g plain flour
- 100g ground almonds
- 175g unsalted butter, chilled and diced
- 50g icing sugar, sifted
- 1tsp pure vanilla essence
- 1 free-range egg, lightly beaten
- Iced water, as necessary
- 150g white chocolate
- 1kg strawberries
- 5tbsp red currant jelly
- 600ml whipping cream, optional

Sift the flour and ground almonds. Rub in the butter, stir in the sugar and add the vanilla essence, egg and enough water to bind to a smooth dough. Cover and chill for about half an hour. Roll out the pastry and line a greased and floured 25cm loose-bottomed flan tin set on a prepared baking sheet.

Trim off the edges of pastry, and prick all over with a fork. Line with foil or greaseproof and cover the base with ceramic baking beans or dried beans.

Bake "blind" (empty) in a pre-heated oven at 180C, gas mark 4, for 20 minutes. Remove the beans and lining paper and return the pastry to the oven for five to eight minutes more to complete cooking. Remove from the ring and cool.

Melt the white chocolate gently in a bowl set over hot water and brush over the inside of the cold pastry case. Once it has set, you can fill the tart. Hull the strawberries, crush most of them with the whipped cream and pile into the tart, decorating the top with the best whole strawberries, in which case you will not need the redcurrant glaze. Alternatively, pack the strawberries in the pastry, pointing skywards. Melt the redcurrant jelly, allow to cool slightly but not set. Brush over the strawberries and serve the whipped cream separately.

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Next week: *Barbecues*

THE PERFECT GOOSEBERRY CRUMBLE

THIS SIMPLE recipe makes one of the most appealing of all traditional English puddings. If you can add a couple of sprigs of elderflowers, well-rinsed, the flavour will be ambrosial. Use the same method for apple, apricot, plum, pear, blueberry and other fruit crumbles in season.

■ YOU NEED: about 1kg gooseberries, topped and tailed, a vanilla pod, and golden granulated or light muscovado sugar to taste. For the crumble you will need: 125g flour, 75g butter, 50g ground almonds, 75g light muscovado sugar and 25g flaked almonds.

■ METHOD: Simmer the gooseberries in 2-3 tablespoons of water for 10-15 minutes with the vanilla and elderflowers if using them. Remove the pod and flowers. Sweeten the fruit to taste and transfer to a buttered baking dish or individual ramekins. Rub the butter and flour together, stir in the ground almonds and sugar, keeping the mixture loose. Spoon the crumble over the fruit and scatter on the flaked almonds. Bake at 200C, gas mark 6 for 15 minutes.

■ TO SERVE: hot or warm, with cream, ice-cream, custard or crème anglaise sweetened with elderflower syrup.

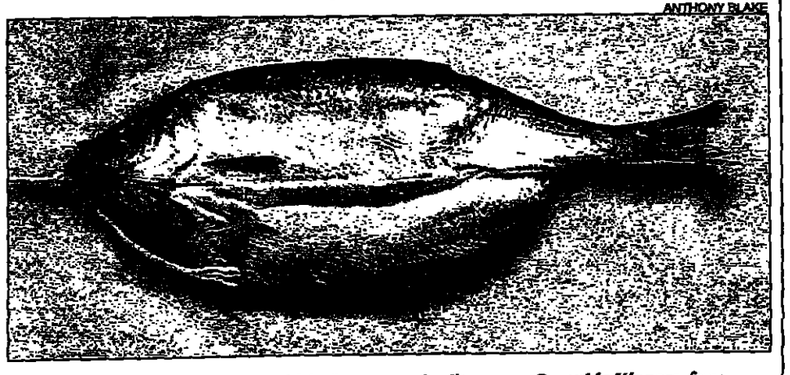
Next week:
The perfect banana split



CONSUMING INTERESTS: KIPPERS

I like kippers, which is lucky because few people would have stomached taste-testing this product. If you are going to stink the place out, you should at least get a substantial meal. Some of the starveling fish were scarcely worth the smell or boning, and under the grill they incinerated in moments. Poaching is less smelly and yields milder flavours. Serve kippers skin up — they are much easier to fillet. ROBIN YOUNG

ANTHONY BLAKE



Achiltibuie Kippers, *from the Achiltibuie Smokehouse, Ullapool, Ross-shire IV26 2YC (01854 622353). £16 for 3-4 pairs, a kipper box (approx 10-12 pairs) £30 inc p&p.*
Claims: "Traditional Scottish kippers cured with salt and oak smoke."
Verdict: Good sized fish (the pair weighed 415g), almost as darkly orange-red coloured as some dyed kippers, and the oakiest flavour of the first four samples. They had been oversmoked, leaving the flesh dry and, at the tail, quite leathery. ★★½

Bridfish Smokery Kippers, *from Unit 1, The Old Laundry Industrial Estate, Sea Road North, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3BD (01308 456306). £18.50 for 5lb pack*
Claims: "Smoked in the traditional manner without the aid of any colouring."
Verdict: Small fish (the company reckons six to eight pairs in the 5lb pack, and our pair weighed 370g) opened to an almost circular shape. The gutside was rather grey, but the flesh was moist and silvery and tasted both mild and delicious. ★★★½

G Deveau & Son Ltd Superior Smoked Manx Kippers, *£2.65 a pair, from 33 Castle Street, Douglas, Isle of Man (01624 673257 or 676360)*
Claims: "Manx kipper specialists, established 1884. Superior brand. No artificial colouring or preservatives used."
Verdict: Small to medium sized orange-brown fish, which distorted and split heavily in cooking. Strong smoke flavour, but rather dry flesh. The company also supplies freezeable fillets. ★★½

J & M Fraser Kippers, *£1.40 a pound (£1.14 the pair), from Universal Fish Shop, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0LL (01595 692301)*
Claims: None.
Verdict: Smallish even-sized fish, which arrived by post and amazingly still had ice crystals between them on arrival. Perfectly acceptable, but unexceptional. ★★

Minola Smoked Products Kippers, *from Lechlade, Gloucestershire GL7 3QY (01367 860391). £3.65 per 500g pair, plus p&p*
Claims: Oak-smoked kippers, additive free.
Verdict: Fine, large north-east Scottish fish (460g our pair, but often 500g), rich and oily, with a fine and tangy oak flavour which comes from hanging the fish over oak logs. Outstanding. ★★★★★

Quayside Kippers, *from The Harbourside, Portleven, Cornwall (01326 562008). £1.98 lb (£4.36 kg)*
Claims: "Herrings landed fresh in Scotland, because they have the best oil content for kippering. All processing (including smoking) is done at Quayside. No dyes or additives."
Verdict: I tried two good-sized pairs, 450g and 475g respectively. Those given Light Smoke were innocuous but dull. The pair with Original Smoke showed the grid marks where the fish had been laid for smoking, and had a stronger but still murky flavour. ★★½

River Farm Smokery Kippers, *£2.25 lb or £4.95 kg, from Bottisham, Cambridge CB5 9BU (01223 811382)*
Claims: "Specially prepared and packed for River Farm Smokery." Fillets are also available at the same price.
Verdict: Our pairs weighed 302g and 322g respectively, distinctly skimpy, and showing wiry lines on the skin where the fish had lain during smoking. Salty, commonplace cure. ★½

The Shetland Smokehouse Kippers, *from Skeld, Shetland Islands ZE2 9NS (01595 860251). A box of kippers (six pairs) £13 inc p&p*
Claims: None.
Verdict: Scrawny little fish, in which the fish flavour masked took precedence over the scant suggestion of smoke, though the curing had left the flesh rather dry and obdurate. ★

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times

Jonathan Meades' top summer eateries

Barbecuing with Bruno Loubet

A savoury lady who refuses to ration

Jennifer Paterson, one of TV's *Two Fat Ladies*, tells **Joe Warwick** why nothing succeeds like excess

HOME COOKING

The larger-than-life personalities of Jennifer Paterson and her cohort, Clarissa Dixon Wright, make their unconventional BBC cookery show, *Two Fat Ladies*, essential viewing.

They preach the virtues of cream over yoghurt, butter over margarine and taste over calories. They show unbridled passion for red meat and have very little time for vegetarians.

There was a time, though, when Jennifer Paterson did not get to dictate every morsel that passed her lips. As a child she confesses: "We ate properly and what we were told."

A middle child with two brothers, Ms Paterson found that her early passion for playing in the kitchen was something that neither her mother nor her siblings shared. "I started early. I was about four when I was mucking about in a kitchen, but nobody else did. We had a cook and I used to annoy her by going into the kitchen and making nasty little cakes. I wasn't really cooking. I just made pit-a-pats and things," she says with an infectious giggle.

Her early childhood was spent in China with an army of servants. It was here that she first savoured the flavours of unusual dishes. "When I was in China, I probably developed a taste for nice food by being given proper food by the servants. Because they loved children, I was given delicious tit-bits while the English were eating disgusting English things." She discovered early that she enjoyed "the things that children don't usually like. I loved spinach, although we were never made to eat healthy foods." She cannot stomach certain English foods. "To this dying day, I don't like milk puddings and custard, those sort of things. Semolina, sago, tapioca and junket, and custardy or wobbly things." Her motto is: "If it wobbles, don't touch it."



A svelte Ms Paterson in her youth in the Far East



Ms Paterson, now recovered from wartime rationing

When she returned to England from the Far East, she lived in a riverside house in Hampton Court. Second World War rationing meant she found the food "universally disgusting". Her one culinary consolation came from the unlikely source of school.

School dinners were for her, unlike many children, "much better than the food at home. That was because we had French and Spanish nuns doing the cooking. We had things like risottos, before the rest of England had ever heard of them, with vegetables like salsify and artichoke. We were a small convent and we were evacuated to Hereford, to a country house which had a very good kitchen," she says.

The nuns' culinary skills were not enough to keep Ms Paterson in line and she was expelled from the School of the Assumption in Ramsgate when she was 15.

While she remained at the school, she experienced a vast contrast between the meals she enjoyed there and what was on offer at home: "The food at home was on the ration and my mother had no idea what to do with anything. You had very little meat and very few eggs. I can't even remember what we ate then."

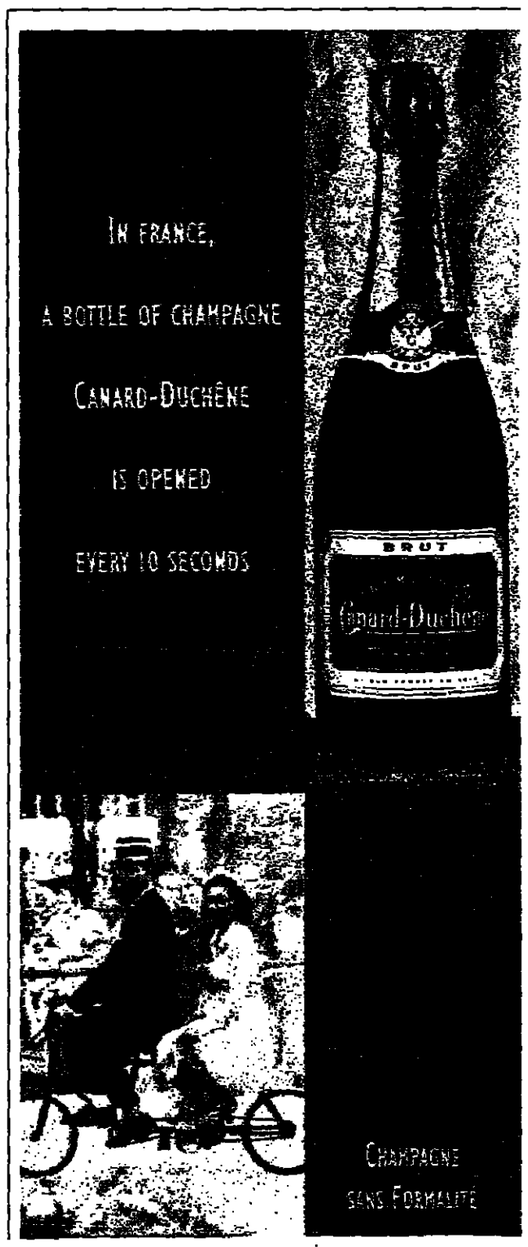
She does manage to remember one weekly treat, though. "My mother had an arrangement with the butcher, so we had a large roast once a week. Because so many people came and stayed with us, we had enough coupons to get a proper joint. My grandmother would come over and cook it."

Other memorable treats would sometimes trickle in from the countryside to Hampton Court. She remembers the occasional "lovely pat of butter", which provided a welcome escape from "horrible margarine". She recalls the rationing of sweets and fruit which, although she missed them, were not her greatest cravings.

"Most children's memories of rationing were of very few sweets. I also remember people saying 'I'd love a banana' or 'I'd love an orange'. What I longed for were olives. There were no olives but I'd been brought up on them and I adored them. I missed savoury things more than I ever missed sweets," she says.

She is dismissive of the nostalgic notion that wartime rationing provided a healthy diet. "People who say that never had it. There was no fruit or anything," she argues.

Whether or not the delicious excesses of her own cookery are a reaction to those lean war years, one thing is certain: nothing is rationed in her recipes today.



'He raced stark naked downstairs and across the field, arriving just in time to see the newborn colt take a convulsive gasp'

You're a naughty old Devon

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

"I don't know why they made all that fuss about Elizabeth Hurley's knickers," my husband said brightly this morning, coming in from gazing at his cows. "On this farm, I have to look at ruder things every day."

There are more rude sights than usual at the moment: not only are the muscovy ducks refining their sexual technique outside the kitchen window, but everything imaginable is giving birth.

The only animals that seem to show an overwhelming modesty are the carthorses. We've never, ever managed to catch them foaling. An old horseman once told my husband that carthorse foals were born with a little fragment of loose flesh on their tongue, which they swallowed with their first breath, and that anyone who managed to grab it could use it as a charm to tame the wildest stallion.

This was probably just a wicked tease, but it had a galvanic effect on my husband's foal-watching. He became even more obsessed with being present, and one morning a few years ago he happened to be pulling his trousers on when he glanced out of the bedroom window and saw our strawberry-roan mare settling down in an unmistakable position a quarter of a mile away.

He raced stark naked downstairs and across the field, arriving just in time to see the newborn colt take a convulsive gasp. On its tongue, something dark fluttered, but it slipped away about half a second before my husband's fingers could close on it.

Understandably, he's had rather an embittered attitude to the idea of being present at a foaling ever since — but he hasn't quite descended to the level of a friend of his in France, who pushes his elderly mother's bed out into the stables every spring and makes her sleep there, equipped with a torch (to shine on the mares' backsides) and a huge dinner-bell (to ring for help).

For most of our marriage the only animals on the farm that have needed any serious midwifery assistance have been the sheep — but that's all changed recently, with the purchase of my husband's red Devon cow. (He developed an obsession with this breed just in time to have the value of his investment wiped out by BSE.)

I've always liked looking after sheep. Although they have a quirky fondness for presenting me with medieval-type obstetric difficulties when I'm least prepared — swollen, gargoyle-like lamb's heads hanging out of the back, perhaps, or a knotted tangle of triplet legs — sheep have gentle, endearing characters and are small, long-suffering and depressive, like the heroines of Victorian novels. When in trouble, they tend to lie prone in the corner of a field and put up with any amount of incompetent fumbling without complaint. If they get really, really angry the worst they'll do is die with a reproachful look on their face.

Sadly, the same can't be said for red Devon cows. My husband can't understand why I don't love them as much as he does. "Have you noticed," he'll say, after a morning spent tenderly watching them, "how there's something essentially silly about their mouths? I think it must be the way the outer edge of the top lip hangs over the jaw, so they look like the goopier members of the Bash Street gang." I'm more likely to notice the way they size me up suspiciously when I approach and lower their horns in warning.

And, of course, they're terrifying when they give birth. The biggest, a deep russet matron called Darkie, bellowed so loudly this year that no one for miles around could listen to Radio 4 — and she uprooted a medium-sized oak tree just to show how miffed she was feeling.

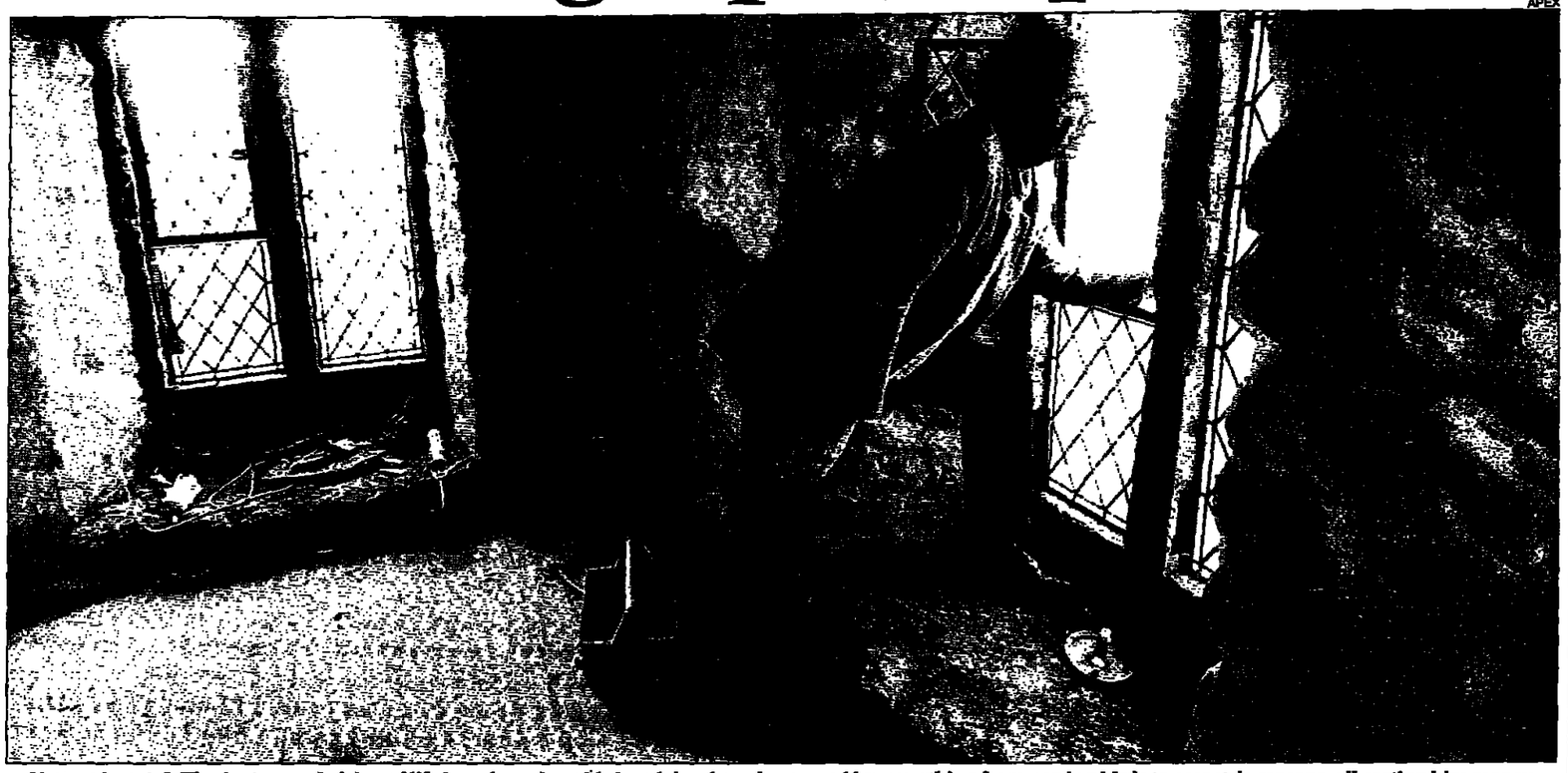
It's also impossible to calculate when the cows are going to give birth, especially if they're first-timers. The dairy farmer up the road has confided that the trick is to feel either side of their tails, and if the stiff ligaments there have gone floppy, it'll happen in a few hours. No doubt pre-warned about this useful tip, all our red Devons have carefully cultivated one floppy ligament and one stiff one. Still, they like it when my husband fiddles around with their ligaments, which I suppose is a plus.

"Their eyes bulge — and they get this appalled look on their faces when I do it," he says. What appals me is the thought that I might ever have to calve one of them on my own. I use the phrase "on my own", but actually you have to do it with a ring of them watching, snorting if they disapprove.

As far as the red Devons are concerned, this farm is like a maternity ward with only two staff — a trained consultant with a seductive bedside manner (my husband), and a gibbering wreck of an auxiliary nurse (me). And it's one of the invariable rules of farming that the worst disasters always happen when the most incompetent person is in charge. Who was here alone, for instance, when the stallion, weighing just under a ton, got himself wedged in the tines of the hay-turner? Or the pig stuffed his head down a drain? The person who's most scared of the red Devons, that's who.

Picking up the pieces

APEX



Vestry view: A.J. Tipping's grand vision of life in a charming old church has been hampered by everything from nesting birds to eccentric masons, all costing him money

A.J. Tipping discovers a few masonic secrets in his continuing account of trying to turn an ancient church into a country retreat

"If it's stood for 500 years it's not about to fall down now," said the builder. This remark seemed to have as little foundation as the ancient wall itself.

The whole corner of the vestry was tilting alarmingly and the crack that ran from ground level to roof had clearly worsened over the winter. Pulling away the ivy that had long concealed it revealed a clutch of blue eggs, strange as a spell among the desiccated lime mortar, which meant delaying the repair for at least a month. The builder was moving to Canada. "I'll be gone before those eggs have wings," he said.

A month later the young birds were pogo-ing about in the sycamore hedge, making noises like rubber toys, as the new mason clambered out of his truck and made his way towards me, waist high in the cow parsley. He glanced at the wall and took in the job at a glance.

He certainly looked the part. With huge bronzed forearms, a beard, barrel chest and deep resonant Somerset voice, he looked like an animated quoinstone. In booming tones, he told me the job was straightforward enough. It would take two or three days and be hugely expensive. He would be glad to do it, though unable to do so for the foreseeable future.

"What about the unforeseeable future?" I asked. He looked at me in silence.

The third mason arrived on time and immediately apologised for keeping me waiting. "I can only apologise most sincere," he said sincerely, "but I had to help an old lady in difficulties — in which circumstances, of course, I don't charge. There you are. But it wouldn't be much of a world if we didn't help others, would it?"

Wheeling abruptly, he broke into a stumbling trot towards the church, arms outstretched — apparently in an attempt to hug it. "What a place!" he enthused, taking in the tower, the rooks, the glow of the setting sun on the red sandstone. "It would be a privilege to work here."

"Have you had much experience of stonework?" I asked. He looked skywards, in the manner of El Greco, apparently discerning there the outlines of an infinity of experience. "Yes," he said at last, opaquely, "I think it's fair to say I have."

Work began a few days later. Only a dozen or so large quoinstones made up the defective corner — these were to be numbered on the exposed faces, dismantled one by one and carefully reinstated in their original positions. There was a small area of random rubble stonework which would also have to be rebuilt between these and the vestry doorway which was to remain in place, its handsome Ham stone, chamfered arch additionally supported by props.

"No problem whatsoever," said the mason. "Why don't you go and relax over breakfast and we'll make a start on numbering the stones and doing some reference drawings. I imagine you've got other things to think about. You don't want to keep a dog and bark yourself, do you?"

Having breakfasted slowly I set off for the church with a light heart. I could see the column of dust rising into the air as I ascended the hill.

'God, you're lucky! The arch went on me. I could have been killed'

Stumbling across the churchyard I dimly took in the scene: a major part of the vestry had vanished. From a huge, jumbled pile of rubble and plaster a spire of mortar dust rose and swirled into the gaping black interior of the church where serious electrical cables thrashed and sparked about.

It was like the mouth of Hades from which the mason emerged and ran towards me, in slow motion, eyes staring. We collided among the graves like Hollywood lovers. "GOD, YOU'RE LUCKY!" he said, breathing hard. "The arch went on me, didn't he? I could have been killed. Managed to jump out of the way."

The stone arch lay in pieces. "But you were going to prop it up. What happened?" I said weakly.

I walked towards the devastation past a neat pile of unused Acrow props. It was like a bad dream.

"Did you number the stones?" I asked. He said: "Well, we hardly had time to do that as they collapsed around us. Chalk 'em on the way down, was it? That would have been like trying to write on a swarm of locusts."

I spent the rest of the morning racing across the Somerset levels through a late spring day of waving willows and brilliant stacked clouds to Ham Hill quarry. Yes, they could repair the arch with phosphor bronze rods, they shouted through the slanted yellow dust and wail of angle grinders. I should come back in a few hours with plenty of money.

Back at the site, I waited in growing frustration for the mason to reappear. Perhaps he had gone to fetch something to secure the building. Finally, when I could wait no longer, I propped a few elder twigs across the gaping void with which he had replaced THE CRACK and pinned a scrap of paper to them with the words KEEP OUT written in invisible ink from a broken biro.

When I returned, exhausted by rushing four times across Somerset, the mason was disconsolately kicking clouds of mortar dust from the unaccountably huge rubble pile.

"It's a pity these stones aren't numbered," he said, watching without further comment as I ruptured myself dragging the now repaired and immensely heavy arch across the graveyard. "All these cornerstones, every one with six sides, all to be got in the right order. Talk about variables. Makes you dizzy thinking about it." He shook his head.

"What are we going to do about security?" I asked, staring bleakly at the missing corner.

"You're lucky there," he replied. "I'll put my dog in here after dark. He's a killer, mun.

"Ears on him like nobody's business. I don't think anyone will give you much trouble if I do that."

"I'm not sure that's a good idea," I said. "What if I..."

"I'll be back at six in the morning to lock him away," he called out, striding towards his van, "you'll be all right as long as you stay out of the way until then."

Then he was gone.

To be continued...

Listen out for the corncrake

FEATHER REPORT

A FAMILIAR sound in British meadows used to be the rasping "crek-crek" of the corncrake — a bird whose Latin name, understandably enough, is *Crex crex*.

It was more often seen than heard, since it kept low in the grass, but when you got a glimpse of it, you saw a strange creature like a slim, yellow-brown partridge.

Now it is one of our rarest summer visitors. When the hay was cut by scythe in late summer, the corncrake could bring up its brood safely in its nest in the grass before the haymakers started. But in the course of this century haymaking began earlier and earlier in the year, so there was no longer enough time for corncrakes to lay their eggs and tend their young, while the mowing machine often killed corncrakes as it whirred round the field.

Now they are down to a few hundred pairs, most of them in the Hebridean islands. Here there has been a slight increase in the past five years, as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and other bodies have bought up land as bird reserves, and given grants to the crofters to delay their mowing.

This year, the RSPB has launched a campaign to find out how many corncrakes there are in other parts of Britain. In 1997, there were 21 confirmed reports of corncrakes calling in the fields in areas other than north-west Scotland, Orkney and Shetland. Many of these were in England. They call mainly at dusk, at night and in the dawn, so people who are out at those times in the country — not only farm workers, but also postmen, milkmen, newspaper boys, doctors and ambulance staff — are asked to keep a sharp ear open for the distinctive call. As corncrakes go on calling monotonously for a long time once they have begun, there is a fair chance of noticing one if it is around.

The Corncrake Survey runs from May 20 to July 10. Corncrakes sometimes stop and call in fields on migration, then travel on further north. But if they are heard calling anywhere between these dates, there is a good chance that they have taken up a territory and will nest. Anyone who thinks they have heard a corncrake this summer is asked to ring 01767 680551, and ask for the Corncrake Hotline. Only birds heard during the survey dates will be counted as possible breeders, but earlier or later records are also requested.

A bird you heard last weekend might, after all, have stayed on to breed.

I have watched corncrakes in the Outer Hebrides. Though mainly night birds, they do call in the daytime, and I found several stalking about in the iris beds that are quite common in the isles. Even in the short iris leaves they were good at concealing themselves, but sometimes their heads would pop up and I would get a good view.

Some ornithologists take a grim view of the corncrake's future — they think it does not have one. But when the results of this new survey come in, we may have a few pleasant surprises.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Birders — watch out for noisy flocks of brown young starlings. Twitchers — scops owl at Beith, Ayrshire; eastern black-eared wheatear on Tresco, Isles of Scilly; collared pratincole at Titchwell Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

PETER BROWN



The corncrake has been harmed by earlier haymaking

ON THE SPOT: ABERGAVENNY, WALES

Rural recommendations

The place: the castle ruins

The view: ahead are houses nestling in the foothills of the Blorenge and to the right is the unmistakable Sugar Loaf mountain. The adjacent museum, once a 19th-century hunting lodge, overlooks the valley and its curator has one of the best views in South Wales.

Historical interest: the Norman castle was built as a classic motte and bailey in the 11th century. After William the Conqueror had defeated King Harold and the English army at Hastings in 1066, he began his assault on Wales and for nearly 400 years the castle was the scene of many border battles.

How to get there: A40 from Monmouth. Walk up Castle street on left of Angel Hotel.

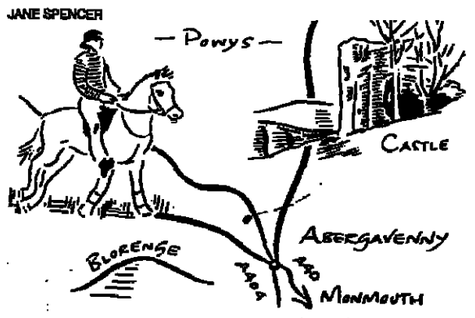
Best time to visit: during museum opening times.

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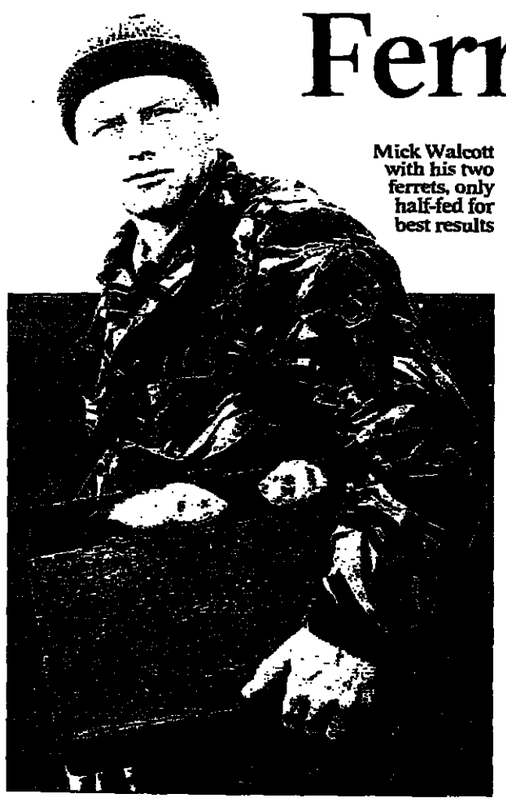
Also nearby: Usk Valley walks, pony-trekking centres, underground tours of Big Pit colliery.

DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER



Ferrets back in fashion



Mick Walcott with his two ferrets, only half-fed for best results

Sean Thomas finds that an ancient blood sport is enjoying a revival

It is a frosty spring morning, deep in the Hampshire downs. Mick Walcott and his son Jake are crawling across the greasy wet grass, searching for rabbit holes: across each hole they carefully peg a small white string net.

Mick then picks up a wooden box. Sliding the top back he reveals two sleek and mewling female ferrets (jills), with tiny silver bells on cute leather collars. One of them is the classic red-eyed cream-furred albino, the other is darker. Both ferrets are trembling with bloodlust.

Mick says the unseasonal cold is ideal. "If it's mild the rabbits will stay deep down and sleep. Makes it difficult for the ferret to budge them." The appetite of the ferret is also crucial. "These ferrets have been half-fed," he says. "Keep them too hungry and they'll stay down the hole and eat their kill. Fill them up and they won't work at all."

Taking out the wriggling albino, Mick pours her down one of the holes. The process is repeated with the second ferret, which pauses for a sniff, before disappearing. And so we wait.

This scene: man, nets, ferret, is one of the oldest in the history of blood sports. Aristotle mentions ferreting in his *De animalia*. Through the Middle Ages, elegant ladies of court hunted with their "fitches" and "foulmarts" — both names refer to the ferrets' alleged mustiness — as depicted in *Queen Mary's Psalter* of 1340. The Courtauld Institute of Art even possesses a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I complete with pet ferret cavorting on her lap.

Queen Bess was anticipating a modern trend: in recent years ferrets have increasingly come to be seen as fashionable house pets. There are now around 1.5 million pet ferrets in the UK, double the number three years ago. That's more ferrets than hamsters. Specialist ferret breeders, ferret vets and ferret food manufacturers have sprung up to cater for them.

But is our national enthusiasm for ferreting sensible? Top ferret boffin James McKay, author of the *Complete Guide to Ferrets* (Swan Hill Press, £12.95), says that as long as they are kept happy and clean, ferrets do make intelligent, friendly and relatively unsmelly pets; but other experts differ.

In America, where there are an estimated five million pet ferrets, there have been several nasty incidents with children, and Georgia and South Carolina have banned the animals.

As Paul Latham, of the British Field Sports Society, says: "People tend to forget their pets' working background. Ferrets can make good pets, but they are really hunters. Such excellent hunters, in fact, that ferreting is enjoying a renaissance."

Back to the hill. Mr Walcott is crouching nearer one of the warren-holes. His face shows concern. "A big buck rabbit can kill a ferret with a kick. You never know." But not this time: with squeals and thumps, half a dozen rabbits bolt out of different holes, straight into the nets. Before the rabbits have time to struggle free, Mick and his son have deftly broken their necks with a subtle twist of the wrist.

"It's a great sport. Fresh air, free meat, pest control, and a proper challenge." It is also one of the simplest country sports to take up. "All you need is a few ferrets from a reliable breeder, and permission from a landowner. I'd recommend it to anyone."

● *The National Ferret Welfare Society, 6 St Edmond Road, Bedford MK40 2NQ (01234 272769); the National Ferret School, PO Box 61, Chesterfield S42 6ZX (01246 591590)*

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GILL ALLEN



Patrick Cooke in the grounds of Athelhampton House: 'the emerald lawns and massive pyramid of yews — plain, simple and always effective'

Rooms with a yew

Stephen Anderton finds simple beauty in the Garden of the Year at Athelhampton House

There is nothing quite like the sweet temptation of a garden door left ajar. Athelhampton House in Dorset actually has arched wooden gates in a high, embattled screen gateway standing open, and whenever I have driven past on the road through Puddletown, near Dorchester, I have always wanted to step onto those sunlit lawns.

I should have given in to temptation sooner, for Athelhampton has just won the Garden of the Year Award for 1997, given by the Historic Houses Association and Christie's on April 30.

Athelhampton is a gem, not large, but pefectly formed. The gabled house sits there at the centre of the garden, a long-term assemblage from the 15th century onwards of comfortable Ham stone accretions, looking both ancient and timeless.

The garden only runs to a few acres. But what it has, it does most sweetly.

Around the house are plain lawns and a commendable absence of signage and other commercial paraphernalia. It is the emerald lawns and dovecote look — plain, simple and always effective.

The name of Thomas Hardy's father, a local builder, is still to be seen carved on the dovecote's leadwork.

The structure of the formal gardens was built in the 17th century manner at the turn of this century by Alfred Cart de Lafontaine. It all looks ancient enough now, but still in unnaturally good order.

Is it old or not? There is a fine raised terrace complete with balustrade and obelisks, and two fine pavilions at either end, reminiscent of the famous pair at Montacute House in Somerset.

In the Great Court below the terrace a sunken lawn, pool and fountain are surrounded by massive pyramids of yew. In the 1900s the yews were simply small pieces of vertical punctuation in a geometric pattern of bedding out. But today the yews are huge and command the garden by themselves, like the yews of the clipped Sermon on the Mount at Packwood, Warwickshire. They may not be quite as perfectly knife-edged as they were in their youth — well, who is? — but what dignity they have.

There are smaller enclosed gardens of recent construction, containing plenty of colourful flower gardening beside crisp gravel paths.

One enclosure, the Octagon Cloister, has an octagonal pool surrounded by a ring of lawn and hedges, and on the lawn is a circular corridor of beautifully pleached limes whose gnarled architecture is as much a pleasure to see in winter as in summer.

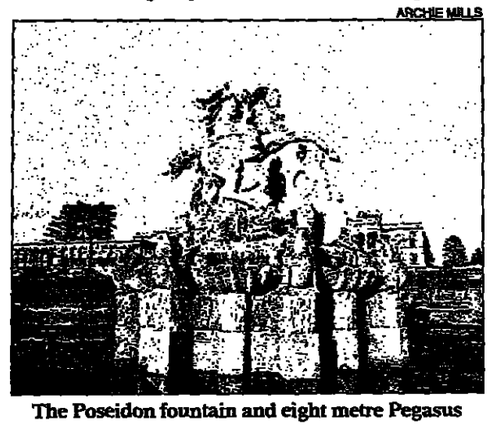
Behind the house, level lawns stretch out to the banks of the river Piddle and animals graze in the low meadows beyond. It could not be more like the English idyll.

So why make this Garden of the Year? It is not breaking new ground or setting standards of cultural complexity. But there is no doubt it is a lovely, simple, peaceful place. It feels like a family garden, and the owner, Patrick Cooke, still clips the yews in the Great Court as he did when he was a teenager. It is the garden's liveability for which people were voting.

There is pleasure in seeing a serene old garden, mixed with the excitement of watching a new one develop. This is Athelhampton: nothing outrageously new but just getting on with its life, beautifully, peacefully so.

● *Athelhampton is five miles east of Dorchester on the A35(T) (01305 848363). Open daily except Saturdays March to October inclusive.*
● *Historic Houses Association, Friends Membership Department, Heritage House, PO Box 21, Baldock, Herts SG7 5SH. (01462 896688). Individual subscription £28, double £40.*

ARCHIE MILLS



The Poseidon fountain and eight metre Pegasus



The yew walk at Duncombe Park, an 18th-century landscape in Yorkshire

A date with Old Father Time

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ **Witley Court**
Stourport, Worcester (01299 896636). About 9m SW of Stourport. Open daily except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, 10am-6pm; times differ in summer and winter. £3.10. English Heritage.
William Nesfield's Poseidon fountain and the nearby Flora fountain which is also being restored, were originally the centerpieces of a 14-acre formal Italianate garden set in an 800-acre deer park. However, the house burnt down earlier this century and the garden disintegrated leaving only the fountains. These should be restored by the millennium.It is said that when water rushes though Poseidon's conch it sounds like the roar of the sea.

The scale of Nesfield's Poseidon fountain is awesome. Pegasus alone is a 15-ton piece of Portland stone, and rises 25 feet.

Some of the original planting of holly and yew, which were cut into dome shapes around the main garden, is still in place and the undulations of overgrown parterres can be seen in some of the roughly grassed areas.

■ **Duncombe Park**
Helmsley, Yorkshire, 14m E of Thirsk (01439 770213). Open until September every day except Saturday (to allow for wedding parties) 11am-6pm, £3.50-£5.50
Thanks to Lord Feversham, whose family has owned Duncombe Park for 300 years, this Arcadia is gradually being restored. It is a classic 18th-century landscape with yew-lined walks, broadwalks flanked by oak, ash and lime and a smattering of temples straight out of the Grand Tour. The parkland is well planted, there is an orangery, an early ha-ha and an 18th-century statue of Old Father Time. Today the park boasts some of the tallest trees in the country — a 148ft ash and a 154ft lime — and a rare species of beetle.

■ **46 Roslin Road South**
Bournemouth, Dorset, (01202 510243). Open tomorrow evening 6pm-8.30pm. 80p or by appointment.
This is a chance to meet Penny Slade of the eponymous agapanthus. Her one-third-acre walled garden is packed with unusual specimens, including the small, pale-blue flowered agapanthus grown from seed she collected in South Africa.

Now her white Rambling Rector should just be flowering through the laburnum, 38 hardy geraniums will be coming up to their best along with her large alliums, astrantia and campanula. Add to this greenhouses, an alpine area and ornamental grasses, and you have an interesting garden.

It is open tonight for the National Gardens Scheme, one of the earliest gardens in the year to do an evening opening.

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ANDREW HASSON



Robin Loder, known for his collection of Victorian cars and owner of the 240-acre Leonardslee Gardens, with a White Glory rhododendron

The Great Storm of 1987 was a blessing

Sussex garden reborn out of Great Storm

ME AND MY GARDEN: ROBIN LODER

Robin Loder, known worldwide for his collection of Victorian cars and for being in charge of Leonardslee Gardens in Sussex, is as politically incorrect as he is environmentally correct.

He is strolling beside a vast slope planted by his parents with about 500 species of camellias, telling wickedly funny stories about visiting nationalities. On the environmentally correct side, Mr Loder employs wallabies to cut the grass and swans to keep the rushes and weeds down by the series of lakes which meander through the garden's well-planted valley.

The Loders, whose name is synonymous with several great Sussex gardens, have been cultivating this famous rhododendron, camellia and azalia garden for more than a century. Mr Loder's great grandfather, Sir Edmund, bred the sweetly scented *Rhododendron loderi* at Leonardslee. With the help of his wife and children, and some others, Mr Loder has managed to keep this large garden — 240 acres in all — in the family. Private ownership means that money is right, which is why the ten-mile network of paths is all grass — pretty but impractical for a public garden. And that in turn means Leonardslee has to open on April 1, when some of the magnificent flowering trees and shrubs have gone over. But, by then, the grass is tough enough for the hordes who will trample through to see the dazzling colours.

> 'Old trees fall on visitors, which is bad news for us'

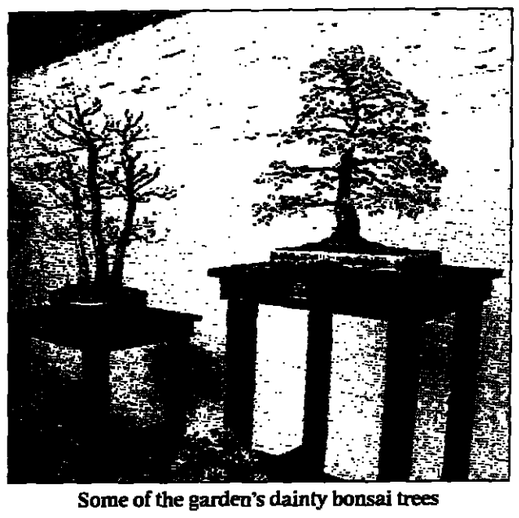
They dazzled last year despite the vicious late frosts. This is, in part, because Mr Loder is hot on frost drains — planting in such a way that frost is encouraged to roll away down open sloping paths before it has time to annihilate plants. He observed over the years how, sometimes, only one side of a plant was affected by a sharp frost, and he has learnt to map minute microclimates in which to plant. But planting was an almost-forbidden luxury until the Great Storm.

"The Great Storm saved this garden. When trees get old they tend to fall on visitors, which is bad news. My father had to close off parts of the garden so we were down to 100 acres and then along comes the Great Storm and in 12 hours it cleared out all the geriatric trees — beech, exotic, deciduous — most of them planted in the 19th century. For 40 years we hadn't had a sensible place to plant a tree and we would never have been allowed to cut down the dead or dying trees."

Since 1987, he has planted several thousand trees. "The Great Storm helped the remaining plants, too. We have flowers on stuff which hadn't flowered for years and, more importantly, you can see them very clearly now," he says.

Now, in the Loderi Garden, some of the original specimens are recovering their strength: Pink Diamond, Pink Coral, White Diamond, Sir Joseph Hooker, and the huge white-flowered King George all set off by an old Douglas fir. In the Middle Walk, which

Continued on page 11



Some of the garden's dainty bonsai trees

See the Chelsea show in 60 minutes

Can't go? Then buy the video, suggests **Sue Corbett**



Show dramas on video

By one of those small miracles that the Chelsea Flower Show always seems to inspire, the first visitors to the show last Tuesday morning were able to buy a video of the event so comprehensive that it even incorporated footage of the previous afternoon's royal visit, with an "I must say, I'm very impressed" direct to camera from the Prince of Wales — but he was talking about the exhibit based on his garden at Highgrove.

"Working to such a tight schedule concentrates the mind," says Charles Mills, marketing director of video-makers Two Four Productions, of Plymouth, which had edited the video overnight for delivery to Chelsea at 7.15am.

No one would want to miss the excitement of being at the show, but it is difficult sometimes in the press of tens of thousands of visitors to get the unrestricted view of exhibits that we would like.

This is where Two Four's *Chelsea Flower Show 1998* is useful. It covers the show gardens and a high proportion of the Gold Medal winners in more depth than the average visitor can manage.

More than that, it conveys an atmosphere — this year, one of summer heat, with hair-raising stories from exhibitors of last-minute dramas created by the weather. Tulips normally cut on the Saturday morning had to be left until the Saturday evening, kept in cold storage overnight and then arranged on the Sunday by a hastily assembled band of extra arrangers.

Camellias were wrapped in fleece to stop the buds opening early. After a hired van overheated on the motorway, Jimmy Jones, of Gwent, didn't make it to the show with his nursery exhibits until early on the Sunday evening. "It's an absolute swine of a year," said a rose-grower.

Most shooting for the video was done last Friday to Monday as exhibitors prepared their stands, with final editing overnight on Monday for delivery of more than 4,000 videos on Tuesday.

"It is a huge feat of condensation because Chelsea has an enormous number of participants," says Mr Mills. "With two and sometimes three crews in the showground, getting the right shots and structuring the story as we shoot is important."

Filming exhibitors as they're racing to complete their stands in time, often working into the small hours by floodlight, makes for a tense, exciting and sometimes humorous video. A couple of years ago, when the May temperatures plummeted, one of the Two Four film crews captured staff of Stapeley Water Gardens of Nantwich heating up the water for their water lily pool in a tea urn. Scenes of people using hairdryers to open their rosebuds are commonplace.

"But, of course, the last thing a lot of exhibitors want to see when they're putting the finishing touches to a potentially Gold Medal winning display is an importunate man with a microphone and a camera," says Mr Mills, "so we have to be tactful."

Chelsea apart, a well-stocked video shelf has become as vital to keen gardeners as any well-thumbed manual or Friday night television series. Instruction videos are the next best thing to having your own private demonstration by a gardening expert.

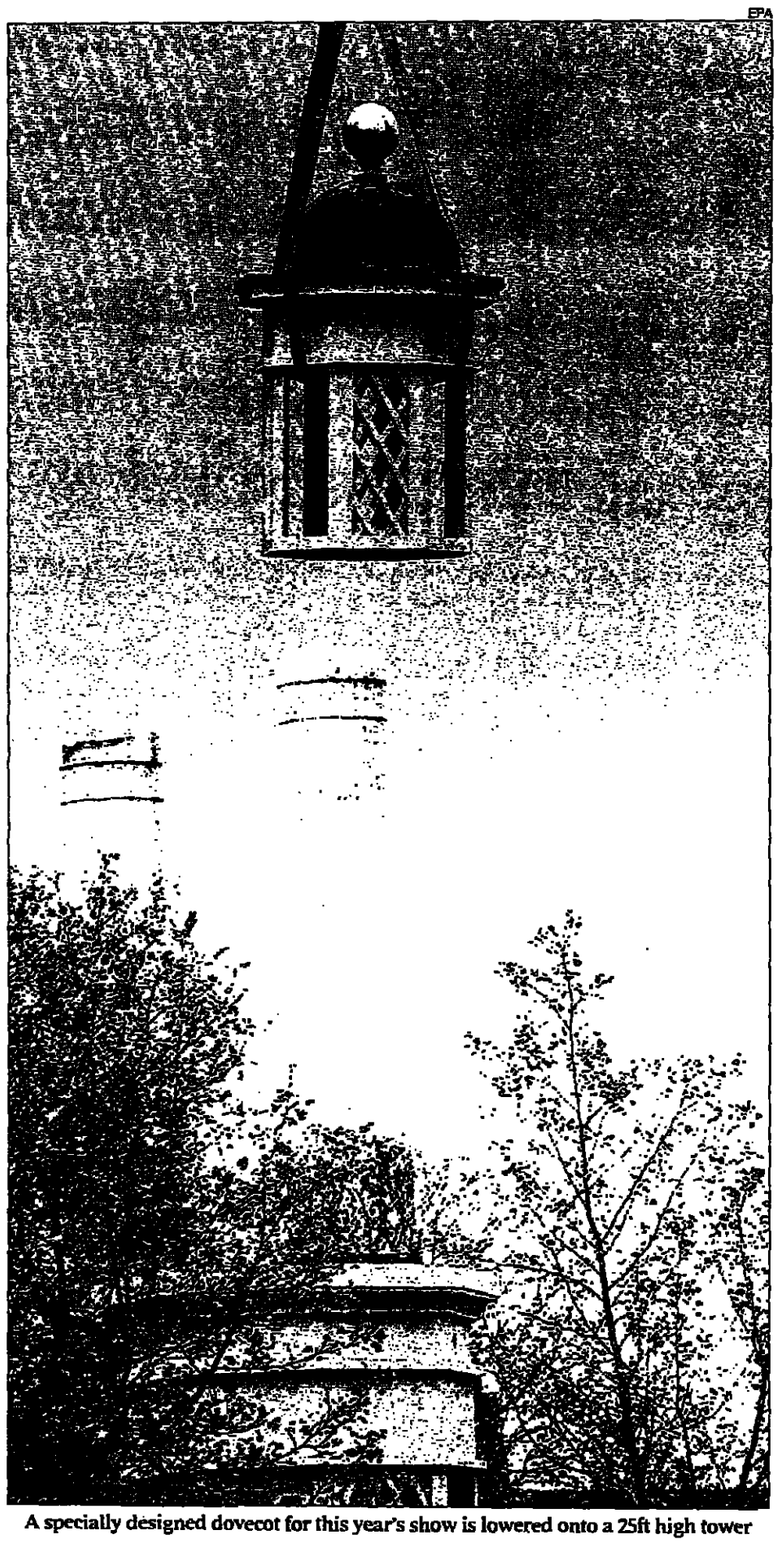
Not to be outdone, the National Trust too also has a burgeoning video list, with *Gardens of the National Trust 1 and 2*, each featuring six of the Trust's gardens through the seasons, and volume 3 expected this week.

VIDEO BOX

■ Readers of *The Times* may buy the *Chelsea Flower Show 1998* video at the reduced price of £14.99 (plus £2 postage and packing) from Two Four Productions (01754 345424).

● *Gardens of the National Trust* videos are available from NT shops at £12.95 each or from Tadpole Lane Ltd, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8LU at £14.95.

EPA



A specially designed dovecot for this year's show is lowered onto a 25ft high tower



A cameraman films behind-the-scenes activity before the thousands of visitors arrive



STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q We have a ten-year-old *Actinidia kolomicta* on a south east wall, and its pink and white leaves have given annual pleasure to us. This year the early season caused it to shoot in mid-March and blooms were opening at the beginning of May. Then we had the frosts. The shoots are now brown and the leaves falling. Should we prune it back? — *Mrs P. Johnson, Broughton in Furness, Cumbria.*

A After frost damage to early shoots it is best to wait until new shoots are seen before pruning back the dead wood.

Q Please give me details of the pear 'Clapp's Favourite' and whether it will pollinate 'Conference'. Of apples, I have 'Jonagold', 'Golden Delicious' and some early-flowering cookers. Will they pollinate 'Cox's Orange Pippin'? — *Mr W.T. Murphy, Glasgow.*

A 'Clapp's Favourite' is a heavy cropping upright tree, and should work well with 'Conference' which will self-pollinate, but it is better with a partner. 'Cox's, 'Jonagold' and 'Golden Delicious' should flower at about the same time and set each other (mid-May in the south), but you may find those very early cookers come too soon to join in.

Q During early May, flowers on clematis 'Lady Northcliffe', 'Nelly Moser' and 'Elsa Späth' all opened showing a pale greenish white. Colour developed a little but they were still washed out. The cultivation has not changed in any way, and they are facing in different aspects. What is the reason? — *Mr T. Thompson, Bexley Heath, Kent.*



A It is not uncommon for early clematis flowers to do strange things. I suspect that in this very early season your flowers just received insufficient warmth and daylight to develop their typical colours. Cold nights can affect early growth too, not burning it but turning it white. The effect soon passes. No doubt later flowers on your clematis will display the usual colours.

Q I have a lovely eight-year-old weeping crab apple 'Red Jade'. This year, about a dozen branches have started growing upwards from the top of the tree, spoiling the shape. What is the best way of removing these branches and when is it the best time to do it? — *Mrs M. Mogs, Weymouth, Dorset.*



A Malus x *schiedeckeri* 'Red Jade' is grown for its red fruits and can often be seen as a large shrub although it will sometimes make a small tree. Its branches do weep and, as with all small weeping trees, when it decides to put on a spurt of vertical growth, it leaves gardeners in a quandary. Cut them off if you wish, and as soon as you can. Rub them off while they are still soft.

But if the tree is determined to grow you may be better keeping a handful of the well-placed new branches — those coming from the centre of the tree but not crossing — allowing them to develop, and controlling rather than suppressing the vigour of the tree.

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in disguise for Britain's oldest rhododendron garden, Leonardslee in West Sussex, says **Jane Owen**



The rock garden, planted with yellow rhododendrons, including a Hawk Crest

Continued from page 10

runs along one side of the valley with riotous views across rhododendrons and azaleas to the seven lakes below, there is a rare *Mahonia nepalense* and *Ilex dipyrena* and a new planting of yellow rhododendrons including Hawk Crest that Mr Loder reckons is one of the best of its kind.

"Rhododendrons are slightly toxic, you know. Whoever met a sane rhododendron grower?" Mr Loder says this as we march past the Quercury, a large sloping area, recently planted with 120 species of oak.

The owners of that other great rhododendron garden, the Rothschilds, seem pretty sane and the labelling at Exbury is better than at Leonardslee. But, however magnificent, Exbury poses no threat as far as Mr Loder is concerned.

"Exbury is lovely, but it is a young garden. The Rothschilds only went there 70 years ago, whereas we have rhododendrons that are 190 years old," he says.

● *Leonardslee Gardens, Lower Beeding, Sussex, 4 miles southeast of Horsham. They are open every day until October 31, 9.30-6 (or 8pm in May only) May £4.50, June-Oct £3.50. Telephone (01403 891212)*



A wallaby grass-cutter, with joey in her pouch



One of the seven lakes in the garden which has a wide array of rhododendrons, some of them 190 years old

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Watch gooseberry bushes for mildew, and for those green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars, which can defoliate a bush in a couple of days. Spray with derris or malathion.

■ Cut runners off strawberry plants to focus their energies closer to home. On indoor tomatoes, nip out with finger and thumb the sideshoots which sprout at the leaf joints.

■ Tall herbaceous plants requiring support later should have their stakes put in now. Frosts should be over in the south, so dahlias may be planted out and bedding plants may be planted out in the ground and in pots. Wait a little longer in the north, or take the risk.

■ Divide old or congested clumps of polyanthus and primroses. Spread clumps of cowslips in rough grass where they can self-sow. Lift and divide bluebells after flowering.

■ Hungry climbers on walls, such as clematis, should be given fortnightly liquid feed (high-potash feeds such as tomato feed are ideal), to ensure there is plenty of moisture at the roots and to encourage flowers.

■ To weaken and kill bracken, cut down stalks when they are 18in high, just as the side branches start to expand. Several years of this will starve the plant to death without chemicals.

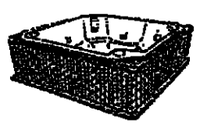
■ The yellowing leaves of crocuses and snowdrops in rough grass can be mown where there are no daffodils. Daffodils need another month or more to die down.

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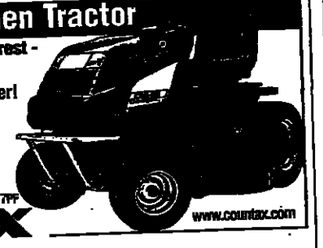


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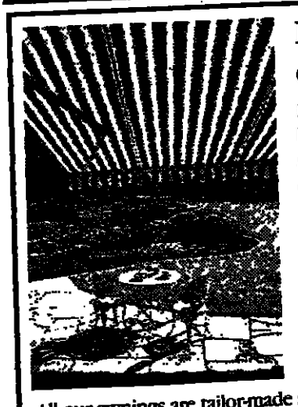
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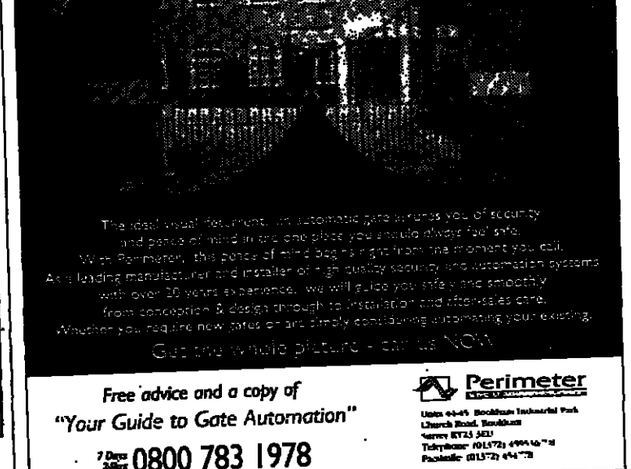
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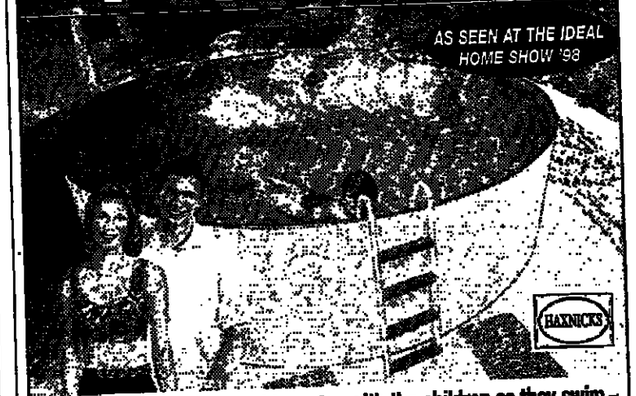
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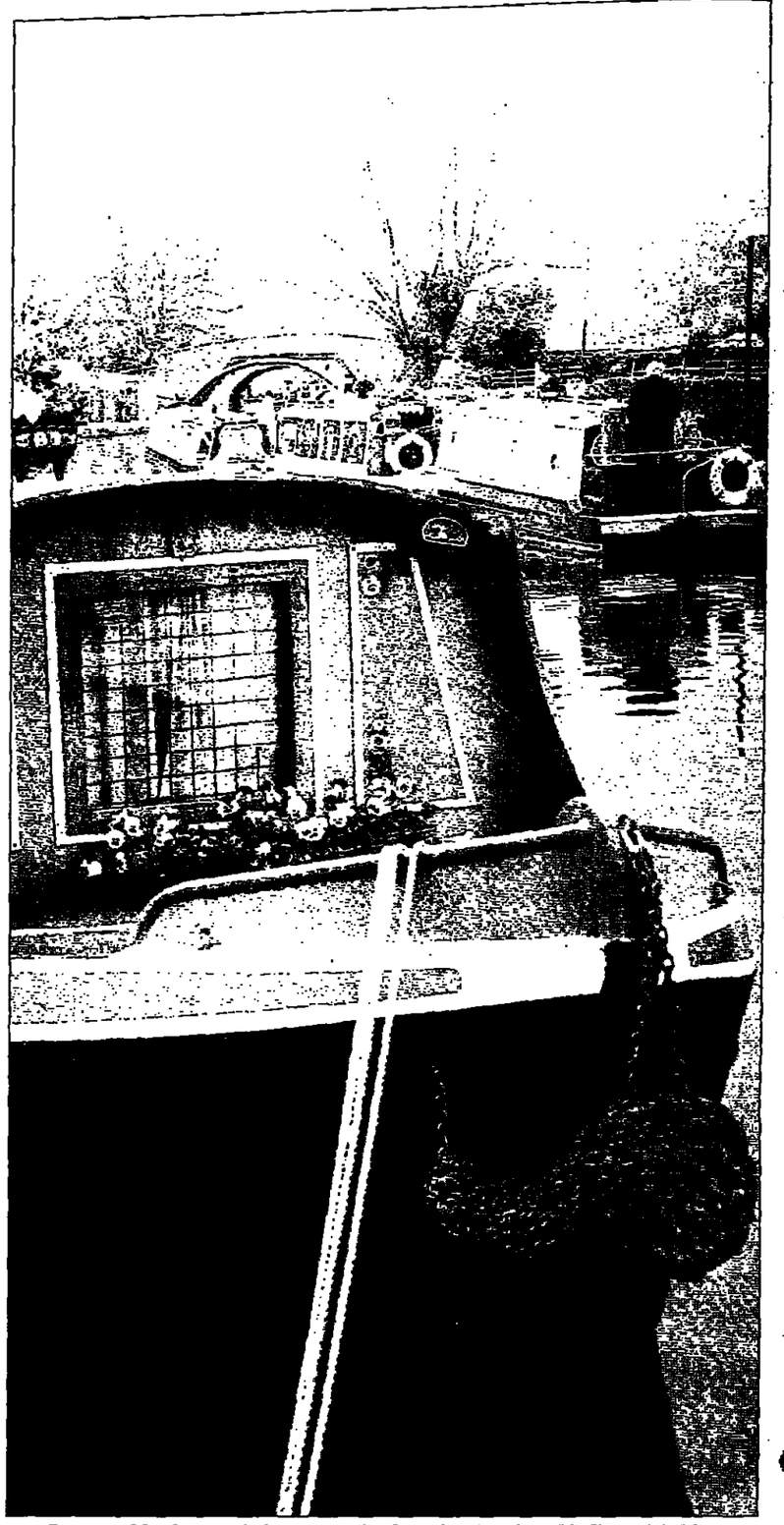
Fred Redwood weighs up the romance and reality of buying a home down by the water

PAUL FIEVEZ



Michael Wulss outside his unimproved canalside home in Oxford which sold for the asking price of £275,000

RONALD GRIBBLE



Barges add colour and glamour to the Grand Union Canal in Warwickshire

Unlikely as it may seem, Myrtle Beale is a property market pioneer. Seeking somewhere rural to bring up her young family 28 years ago, she and her husband decided against a quaint cottage in the Berkshire countryside. Instead, she went for something far more unusual — an apartment alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal at Aldermaston Wharf, near Newbury. In the late Sixties the canal was in an appalling state of disrepair. It was largely unnavigable: the canal beds leaked and locks were derelict. But Mrs Beale and her family loved it.

"In those days the towpath was so peaceful," she said. "If we spotted an outsider — and they were always naturalists — then it was quite an event. The wildlife was so glorious. Coots and ducks made their homes on the rushes which grew across the water and there were all kinds of bankside water rats and voles. We were just a small community, with nothing more than a pub and a post office/general stores on the bridge. But the place had a unique charm."

Unfortunately for Mrs Beale, the peace of Aldermaston Wharf was recently broken. Throughout the country, canals, which were abandoned around the 1880s, have been restored to working order for recreational purposes. The Kennet and Avon was made navigable again in 1990. Colourful holiday barges now split up the families of coots and ducks, and hundreds of visitors pour into the Tourist Information Centre. In the last few years the housebuilder, Persimmon, has built a sizeable development ranging from four-bedroom homes to housing association flats. It is a bright, cheerful place — full of towpath cyclists and ramblers. But it is not the quiet, naturalists' paradise Mrs Beale used to know.

Nationwide, the proximity of a restored canal is proving to be an irresistible enticement for house buyers.

In Oxford, Berkeley Homes has a development of 199 properties which have sold exceptionally quickly. This despite being situated in Jericho, previously considered a rundown quarter of the city. To appreciate the price enhancement caused by a canal frontage you have only to look at two properties of identical structure that were recently for sale with Chancellors in Oxford.

> 'There is something magical about living by water'

A mile from the city centre, in Southmoor Road, both are four-storey houses. But the canal-fronted house sold for its asking price of £275,000, while needing a further £50,000-£75,000 to be spent on improvements, having been untouched since 1954. The house opposite, without the canal view but in excellent repair, is likely to sell for between £295-£300,000. This suggests a premium of around 20 per cent for a property overlooking barging families on holiday, together with Ratty and his friends.

Michael Wulss, who bought the property in need of renovation, believes the extra cost is money well spent. "The canal is so romantic, with the water creating a feeling of space," he said. "Also, there is this affinity among the boat-people which makes for an added social dimension. This is more than just a standard house and garden now."

But the Oxford illustration is too simplistic to be relevant countrywide. Guy Singleton, chartered surveyor with Carter Jonas at Marlborough, has analysed the allure of canals for his prospective buyers in Wiltshire. "People want canalside properties either as second homes or as their main property," he says. "As second homes, in the £100,000 region, the proximity of the canal is a favourable selling point.

"People imagine themselves taking up boating; there are thoughts of tea at the bottom of the garden, watching the barges go by.

"But for main properties, with prices in excess of £300,000, people are far more cautious and the canal can be a negative factor. Take its proximity: if the canal is situated at the end of a long garden, that's fine. But if it's too close, threatening privacy, then it's not so appealing."

Originally, the aim of the canal system was to transport goods to industrial centres, which means they pass through cities as well as the leafy suburbs. The chance of being a pebble's throw from Regent's Canal in London has contributed to an asking price of £1.5m for a three-bedroom, four-storey property in St John's Wood High Street, which is on the books of Anscombe and Ringland.

Other modern developments situated near canals are sprouting throughout the country. In Great Bowden Hall, Leicestershire, for example, Enterprise Heritage is turning the original country house into apartments, while building new lodge houses in the grounds. In Claydon, Oxfordshire, Tay Homes is building eight 4/5 bedroom detached homes which are priced at between £210,000 and £240,000.

All of which fuels the suspicion that our canal sides are going to become areas of architectural uniformity — little more than temporarily trendy, over-priced marinas. Andrea Roberts at Berkeley Homes in Oxford dismisses the suggestion.

"These developments enhance areas previously neglected. There is something magical and tranquil about living close to water, which is difficult to put into words. It's the barges, passing so slowly, and the tow-path people all out for the day."

But at Aldermaston Wharf, Mrs Beale has her reservations. "I am sure the new homes are very nice but the canal development has certainly changed the way of life here. The shop has been sold to make yet another house — so everyone must travel for provisions. And the in-comers have brought more traffic, which makes it less peaceful. Now it's just another dormitory estate and that's a shame."

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES



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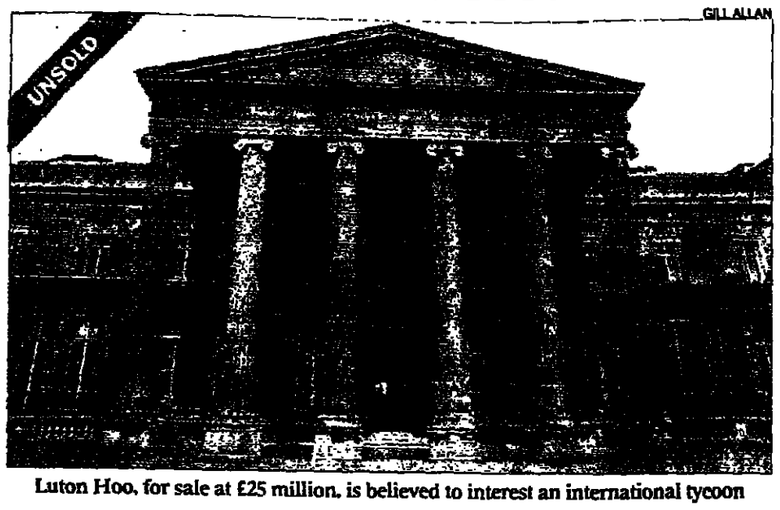
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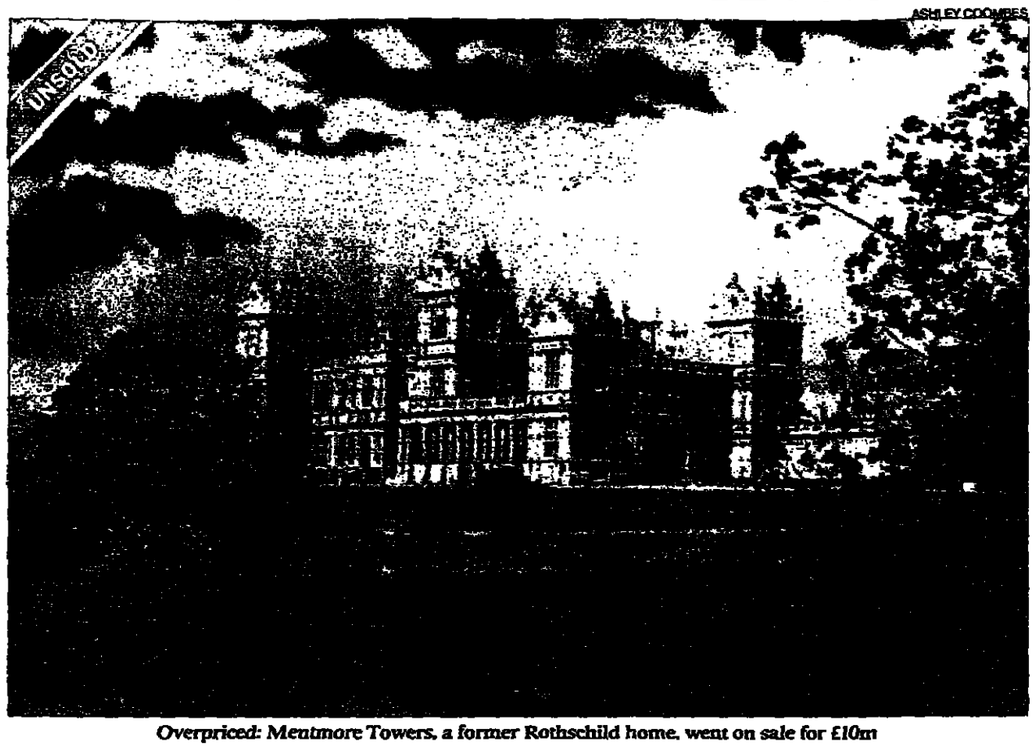
LONDON PROPERTY

هكذا من الأصل



GILL ALLAN

Luton Hoo, for sale at £25 million, is believed to interest an international tycoon



ASHLEY COOMBES

Overpriced: Mentmore Towers, a former Rothschild home, went on sale for £10m

It's lies, all damned lies

Beware – if an agent overvalues your home it could end up on the shelf, writes **Rachel Kelly**



Cricket St Thomas is still unsold after nearly a year — a snip at £10m

There are lies, damned lies, and estate agents' valuations, it seems. Sellers claim that agents are deliberately overvaluing their homes to win instructions — and then failing to deliver sales.

Two weeks ago, agents Savills admitted to overpricing by cutting the price of Mentmore Towers in Buckinghamshire by £3 million. Mentmore, one of England's most sumptuous and extravagant Victorian piles, first went on sale for £10 million. The agents said the house had been priced at a premium in the hope of attracting a private buyer, but that now it thought an institutional buyer was more likely. For the former family seat of the Rothschilds has been owned for 20 years by the Maharishi Foundation, the transcendental meditation movement.

Peer into any agent's window and the reason for overpricing is obvious — they don't have enough houses to sell. Figures from the Land Registry show that there are about one million sales a year, half that at the height of the boom in the late 1980s.

Saddle your house with a too hefty price tag, and it will seem old hat and be harder to shift. Any buyer will be suspicious about its time on the market. A house or flat may look its finest in a particular season and careful timing of the marketing can be ruined.

Such is the sensitivity of the subject, that agents are loath to be quoted for fear of seeming greedy or unprofessional. Here are the words of one well-known agent who said he was not to be identified, "in any circumstances": "We are often forced to overprice our properties. We have to keep up with other agents."

Examples of properties both fine and modest which have are stuck on the housing market shelf abound. No buyer has been found for Luton Hoo, on sale through Knight Frank. The house is still unsold, eight months after it went on the market for £25 million, and hoteliers and institutions are both thought to have ruled themselves out of the running.

The most likely buyer now is predicted to be a tycoon needing space to house a large art collection.

However, Rupert Bradstock from the buyers agent Property Vision said there were only a handful of such buyers in the world, and that his firm has no interested parties on its books.

Rival agents say the house is overvalued at £25 million, a price which reflects the cachet of owning the house, its seven entrance lodges, its Capability Brown park, 47 other houses and cottages and 1,545 acres as a whole. The house is probably worth between £12 and £15 million if the estate was sold as separate lots.

Agents defend themselves by saying such stately homes are liable to valuation problems because it is difficult to find comparable properties. As Mr Bradstock says, there may only be five individuals in the world who can afford a Luton Hoo or a Mentmore.

No. 1 Cambridge Gate, in Regent's Park, London, went on the market last November at £15 million — with a £250,000 Rolls-Royce thrown in for good measure. Since then, the Rolls-Royce has been withdrawn and the house has remained unsold. The agents, De Groot Collis, say there has been some interest but no serious offers.

Property experts suggested the house was overpriced and cited the "free" car as evidence of this. But the vendors say they have no plans to reduce the price.

On more ordinary properties there less excuse for mispricing by agents. Sellers are loathe to come forward and talk for fear of further damaging their sales or for seeming greedy for accepting inflated valuations. But one seller revealed the problems she suffered when trying to sell her South Kensington flat.

One agent valued the property at £400,000; a second at £275,000. She gave the instruction to the first agent. Six months later, and no flat sold, she instructed the second agent. She blames the first agent. "He is supposedly the professional. I believed him. The flat isn't sold."

Who is to blame? A greedy vendor or agents desperate for instructions? Or indeed, the housing market? There are still hot-spot pockets where the market is steaming ahead and valuations prove near impossible. Sometimes, agents can't win. In a boom, they are blamed for overpricing: in a bust for undervaluing.

The best pointer to a desperate agent likely to overvalue is one who is happy to cut fees or one who is new to an area. But it is difficult to pinpoint rogue agents who are camouflaged by confidentiality clauses.

Agents naturally point the finger back at homeowners. "Vendors are their own worst enemies. They programme themselves into believing their house is worth so much and they don't want to know what the agent thinks."

The answer, says Ed Mead from Douglas & Gordon's Chelsea office, is to ask three or four agents to assess your house's value. The rogue will overvalue by 20 per cent more than other agents. Ask them to justify this and list similar houses they've sold recently.

Or do your homework. Carmen Andreas is a seller who knows her market. A part-time developer, she asked five agents to value her flat in Knightsbridge, central London. She chose the lowest valuation — £600,000. "I will sell for this price, which I know to be fair. If the flat doesn't sell, then I will take it off the market."

SMART MOVES

● The novelist Victoria Clayton is selling The Old Rectory, her £1.2 million home at Little Gransden, in southwest Cambridgeshire through Carter Jonas.

● The pools heir Robert Sangster and his wife Susan have quietly taken their £8-million Holland Park mansion off the market. The house went up for sale last November and rival agents said it was overpriced.



Robert Sangster

● Ad man and art director Mark Reddy is selling his £225,000 South Norfolk house through Strutt & Parker.

● The record producer Robin Millar is selling his Hammersmith house through agents Marsh & Parsons for £750,000.

● Sarah Miles, the actress and writer, is selling her London one-bedroom flat on the second floor of a period conversion in Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge, to move to Hampshire.

RACHEL KELLY



Writer Sarah Miles

NORTH OF THE THAMES

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HAMMERSMITH, W6 Part mod 3 storey end terr hse + gge in Cambrose St. Major prospect to create family hse. £240,000. Boyseon 0181 563 7100.

MAGNOLIA RD, W4 2 bed cottage + loft nr. Dble recep. kit + conserv. Patio. £245,000 t/h. Finlay Brewer 0171 371 4171.

MAIDA VALE, W9 (Elgin Ave) 2 bed 2 bath duplex apt in retirm conversion + patio easements from shops & tube. £175,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

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ST JOHNS WOOD, William Ct. 2 bed, 2 bath, porter. £230,000 Rose Homes 0171 724 9919

MARYLEBONE, NW1. Spacious 2 bed flat on lower ground of period mans blk nr Baker St. Priced to sell £134,950. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

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Tel/fax: 0171 727 6818.

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How to be a wise little mover

Rachel Kelly investigates the obvious and not so obvious costs of acquiring your first property and suggests how you can minimise the outlay and stress

So you want to buy your first home. Herewith a *Times* guide through the maze of buying costs, some of which are hidden. We have assumed that Mr and Mrs Average are buying a £100,000 property.

Mortgage

Lenders usually charge a "mortgage arrangement fee" which can cost up to £250 depending on the type of loan. The repayments for a £90,000 mortgage, with rates of around 7 per cent for 25 years, would cost about £645 a month for a straight repayment mortgage.

Most buyers take out mortgage payment protection insurance which will cover the monthly repayment when help is needed and will usually pay for up to a year if the policyholder becomes too ill to work, or suddenly loses his/her job. It costs between £3 and £9 a month for every £100 of monthly repayment. Costs vary between different schemes and depend on the borrower's occupation. So at a midway £6 rate, Mr and Mrs Average would be paying £39 a month.

Solicitor

The next almost unavoidable cost is the solicitor, who is paid to check if proper title is held by the seller and if there are any future plans which may affect the house, such as a motorway through the back garden or whether the house has been built on contaminated land. Although you can do your own conveyancing it is laborious and time-consuming and, of course, you do run the risk of making a costly mistake. You will have to pay your solicitor the requisite amount to cover the cost of searches, Land Registry fees and, for properties above £60,000, 1 per cent stamp duty. Ask for a fixed fee.

A recent Woolwich survey suggested the average family's £100,000 home buy would incur £416 in solicitor's charges, but the Abbey National estimated costs at £380, so do shop around.

Surveyor

Without a survey, you could find yourself moving into a property infested with wet rot or at risk of bad subsidence. The three possible types of survey differ in extent and are priced accordingly.

A valuation report simply assesses the value of the property for the lender and costs around £180, payable to the lender. This involves no detailed structural examination.

A homebuyer survey and valuation report is a more detailed structural examination and helps safeguard against the main structural defects. This should cost around £340 and is well worth the money for peace of mind.

A full structural building survey costing £400 to £800 is the most extensive, identifying both major and minor faults and is usually only required by those buying very old houses.

Fees

The Land Registry fee is a sliding scale based on purchase price and for a £100,000 house in England and Wales it is £150. In Scotland it is £220.

Moving

Removal costs have risen across the country. Pickfords the removers estimate between £400 and £500 for a full day's work and a distance of no more than 30 miles.

Insurance

You should consider spending £50 on a homebuyer's insurance policy which provides cover against legal costs in the event of post-purchase disputes. Surveyors and solicitors carry heavy indemnity cover.

Bits and pieces

Do not forget to get your mail redirected, which costs £6 for one month, £13 for three months, and £30 for a year. Installing a telephone costs £116.33; reconnection costs £9.99.



MOVING COSTS

(Based on a property worth £100,000 in England or Wales)

Arranging a mortgage	£250
Six years' mortgage insurance	£2,808
Legal fees	£400
Standard HBV survey	£340
Stamp duty	£1,000
Land Registry fee	£150
Removals	£450
Insurance	£50
Redirect mail	£13
Telephone	£116
Total	£5,577

RICHARD ALLEN



Diary of a househunter

WEDNESDAY

We have seen all the two-bedroom flats for sale in Earlsfield, South London. Because we have less than two months until we have to move out of our rented flat, we decide to widen our search to include Wimbledon and Raynes Park.

THURSDAY

A new two-bedroom flat comes on to the market in Earlsfield. It sounds perfect: £95,000 for a ground floor, kitchen/diner with garden backing on to allotments, viewings on Saturday only.

FRIDAY

We view three flats in Wimbledon and two in Raynes Park. One of the flats in Wimbledon, on at £115,000, is a weird shape (it used to be a corner shop) and the others smelt of cat pee. Stuck in traffic, we decide not to try Raynes Park.

SATURDAY

We meet the agent outside the flat in Duntshill Road, Earlsfield. She had forgotten the details and had arranged a treble viewing with two other couples. We elbow past each other but are impressed by the space and a cheery coat of paint. However, appearances were deceptive. The seller had cleverly taken out all the furniture so the sitting room could be sold as the second bedroom.

SUNDAY

We ring Kinleigh's to leave an offer of the asking price of £95,000. The office is open. We are surprised to hear that the agent has already had two offers on the flat.

MONDAY

Because there are three offers, Kinleigh's takes it to sealed bids. We have to fax over our final offer by 6pm. Apparently the asking price is not £95,000 but £99,950. The agent hints at what the other bids are to encourage us to bid a bit higher. After much matrimonial stress, we bid £103,000. Then we change our minds and walk away. We are not that desperate ... yet.

EMMA MAHONY

● *Next week: Getting the mortgage in place*

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

KINGSTON Cranbury Park 3 bedroom house. For sale by Auction 9th June. Andrews & Robertson 0171 703 2662

BRISTOL

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CORNWALL

GILLAN COVE Superbly positioned 3/4 bed property with views over Cove + Bay. Spacious accom nr to Beach with sunroom & terr. gdn.£250,000 Reny + Co. 01326 280044

SPECTACULAR VIEWS
Designed by owner architect, large family house with sea & harbour views to St Michael's Mount & Lizard beyond. Beautiful oak interiors, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrms(ensuite), 2 reception, GCH, Balconies. Dble garage. Mature garden. Walking distance Newlyn. 5 mins Penzance (BR).
£145,000.
Tel: 01736 351776.

COTSWOLDS

MORETON-IN-MARSH Charming period cottage in popular town with garden. Sitting rm, dining rm, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, ensuite shower rm, bathrm, parking. Guide £165,000. Butler Sherborn (01451) 830731

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Tel: 01539 730415.

DEVON

HONITON, luxy 3 bedrm terraced house on 3 floors, on harbour front overlooking Brixham Harbour & Marina. Sunny courtyard to rear. Includes carpets, etc. £80,000. 01803 865728.

ATTRACTIVE 14th C farmhouse, 2 acreages, 30 Acres. Idyllic secluded location on water, sailing, fishing from own quayside. £800,000. 0181 542 4362 or 0498 576 412.

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Full particulars:
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HEREFORDSHIRE

WYE VALLEY - Timbered 17th C secluded cottage; 2 beds, study, lounge-dining, kitchen. £115,000. No chain, or to let £400pcm. 01981 500660.

HERTFORDSHIRE

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KENT

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Cash buyer.
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WALES

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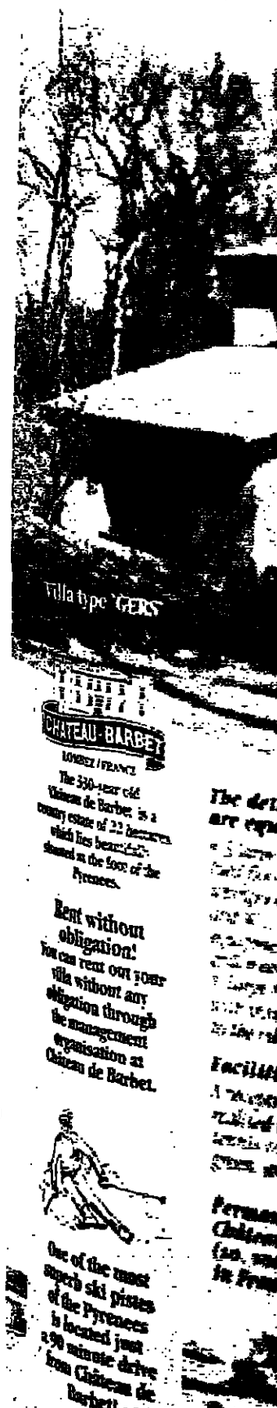
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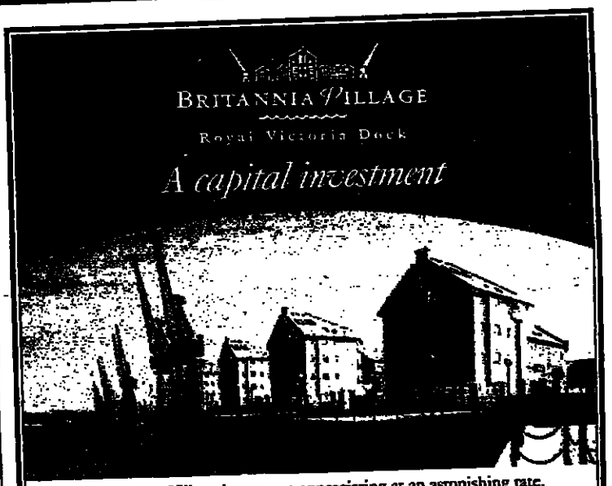
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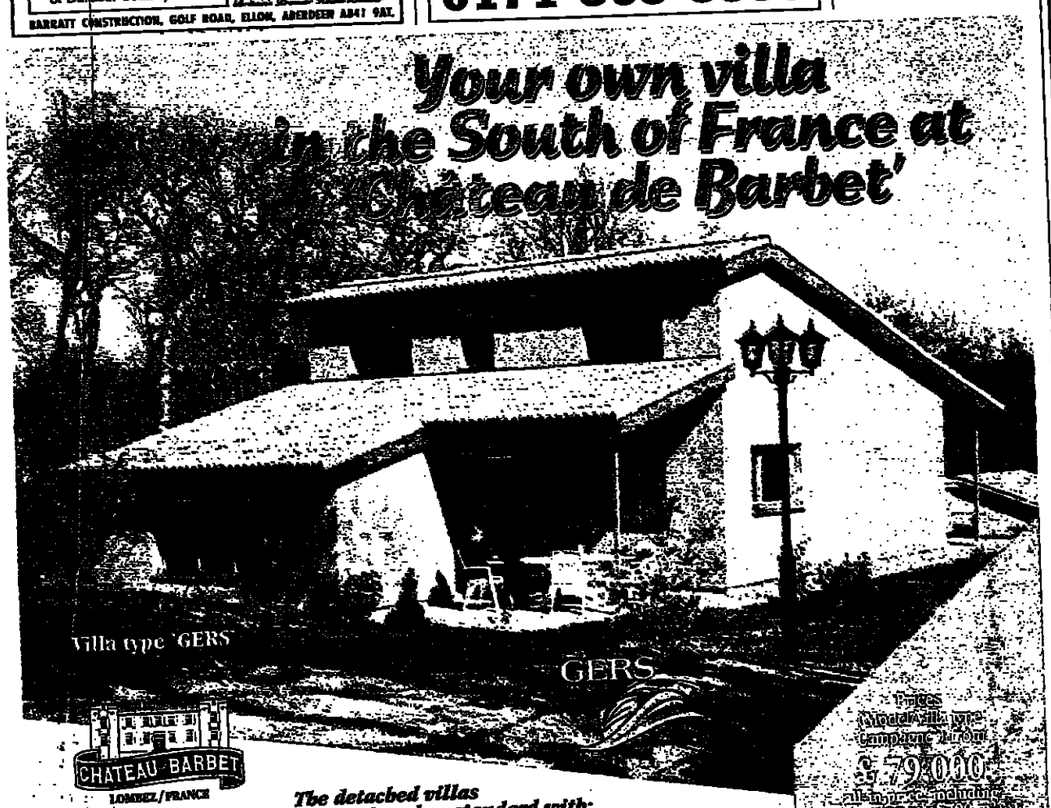
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Maestro's house on a grand scale

Composer Carl Davis and actress Jean Boht are selling their cottage-like London home, writes Christine Wheeler

DES JENSON



Carl Davis, the composer and conductor, with his actress wife, Jean Boht. Mr Davis has written 36 film scores in his music studio which is at the top of the family home

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

The actress Jean Boht, Ma Boswell in *Bread*, had her eye on the white corner house with green shutters long before she and her husband, the composer Carl Davis, bought it in 1981. As she and her two small daughters walked past it on their way to feed the ducks on the pond at the edge of Barnes Common, it seemed "the biggest cottage I had ever seen and I loved the thought of living in a cottage", she says.

Some cottage — I had entered a sort of Edwardian tardis whose wisteria-covered walls hide four reception rooms and six double bedrooms. This at least began to explain an asking price of £1,975,000 for a detached family house.

Built in 1910 by the local doctor, its three front doors kept family, patients and tradesmen suitably separate, and the successful juggling of home and professional life is still an important consideration. Thus the entire second floor and attic were converted for Mr Davis into a music studio cut off from the rest of the house with its own staircase. This is not a sound studio Mustique-style: windowless, neon-lit monochrome where banks of electronics pump out enough energy to illuminate West London; instead, think picture windows and sand-coloured ceiling, carpet and walls — an area surely warranting its own chapter in *The Little Book of Calm*.

Remove the Bechstein, sofa, the Bafta shelf and rows of neatly catalogued scores and tapes — from TV's *The World at War* to the recent *Pride and Prejudice* (36 film scores alone have been written here) — and you have a working space for any discipline.

The Edwardians did not skimp on windows so the recently opened hall-lounge is, like the dining and drawing rooms which overlook the garden, full of light. They have their original tiled fireplace and parquet floor — mercifully unbleached, unstripped and unstained — but with that mellow patina created by a century of being walked on.

The kitchen, of course, is not Edwardian and if the new owners can resist the now obligatory moving-in rite of passage — the kitchen remodeling — they will inherit hand-built old pine sitting comfortably with a scarlet Aga. An old French-painted grandfather clock wheezes and clunks out the hours and, as if it cannot quite remember if it has done its duty, repeats itself. "We turn it off," says Mrs Boht.

Here, you have the welcoming, cluttered family heart of the house where Dolly the dog snoozes, workmen plug in the kettle and the events of the day are planned and recounted.

Well, they would be if the phone ever stopped ringing. I hoped Mrs Boht would conjure up Ma Boswell, whip out that famous mobile phone and deliver a little Liverpudlian patois into the London ether. The phone was mysteriously answered elsewhere.

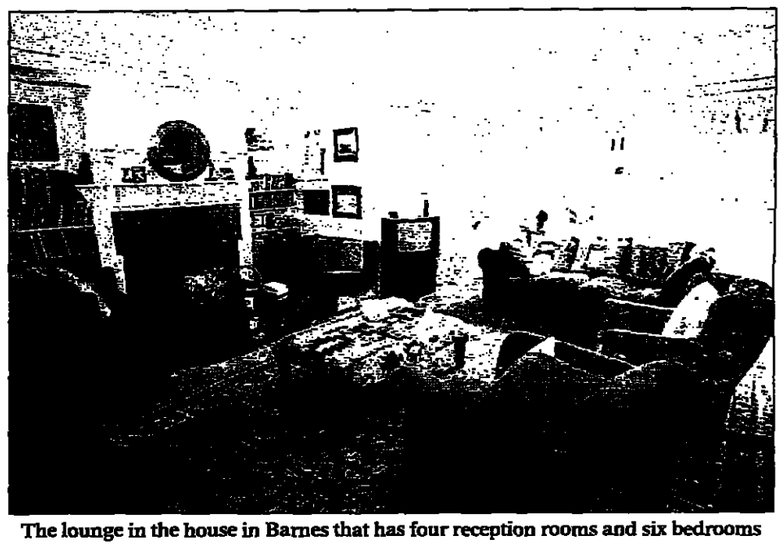
I finally tracked down that telephone in one of the two reception rooms that are now offices and were once the doctor's surgery. A silver disc celebrating the sales of *Christmas with Kiri* (Te Kanawa) sits opposite a *Tribute to Lillian Gish* poster. Round the corner are Greta Garbo and Rudolph Valentino, all reminders of Mr Davis's many scores that now accompany classic silent films.

The family have "tried to tidy up a complex house", but the office area still has its appealing country house complications of rooms, cupboards and corridors. The family part of the house holds few clues to the owner's public life — and I looked — just four, small black-and-white photos in the hall that you might assume were family snaps if you failed to spot the Queen in one.

They will miss the space and a house that "has an air of calm about it". But with daughters, Hannah and Jessie, now making their own way in the theatrical world, it is time to move on — to the more central Chelsea.

Barnes may be only five miles from Piccadilly, but without a helicopter it can seem considerably further.

● *Agents: Strutt and Parker (0171-235 9959)*



The lounge in the house in Barnes that has four reception rooms and six bedrooms



Mrs Boht described the house near Barnes Common as "the biggest cottage I had ever seen"



The pool, part of the estate on sale for less than £2 million

A queen's folly

The Davises are also selling their folly on the coast at Selsey Bill, Sussex, for £295,000. Built at the turn of the century, it was bought in the early 1990s when Jean Boht was appearing in Chichester. She has restored the wooden interior of the four-bedroomed house and added to the semi-tropical garden.

Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia stayed here, as did Queen Mary, who hated ivy and spent many hours removing as much as she could while the King inspected the flotilla, and later while he convalesced at Bognor.

Commitments mean the family cannot use this backdrop for tennis, sailing and walking as much as they would like.

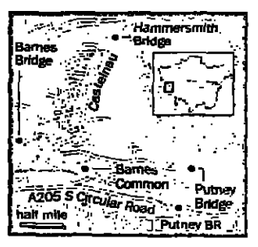
● *Agents: Jackson-Stops & Staff (01243-786316)*



MARKET COMMENT

BARNES is one of London's few urban "villages". It is separated by the river from Hammersmith, by the Common from Putney and by the railway from Sheen.

Barnes boasts only 7,000 homes, mostly late Victorian, and homeowners tend to stay put — which makes for a shortage of buying opportunities. But there is no shortage of would-be buyers, mainly families. They are attracted by the village atmosphere, and by a clutch of highly regarded schools. Frequent fliers like the easy access to the M4 and Heathrow airport; committed Underground users have to



trudge across Hammersmith Bridge (closed to cars) to catch the District, Piccadilly or Hammersmith & City lines. Many residents work in the City and can get to Waterloo in 20 minutes on the overground.

Expect to pay at least £250,000 for a terraced two-bedroom cottage; £500,000 for a four-bedroom Edwardian terrace with a small garden; and £700,000 or £800,000 for a larger family house. At the top of the market, the listed semi-detached houses on Castlenau Road, the grandest road in Barnes, go for £1.5-£2 million, according to Elizabeth Lord at Strutt & Parker.

Favoured roads include Lonsdale Road, Ranelagh Avenue, the Mill Hill enclave and the Terrace by Barnes Bridge. Lower down, Nassau, Hillersdon and Rectory Roads are popular. Considering the amount of riverbank around, there is little riverside property. Berkeley Homes' Waterside and Harrods Village have views.

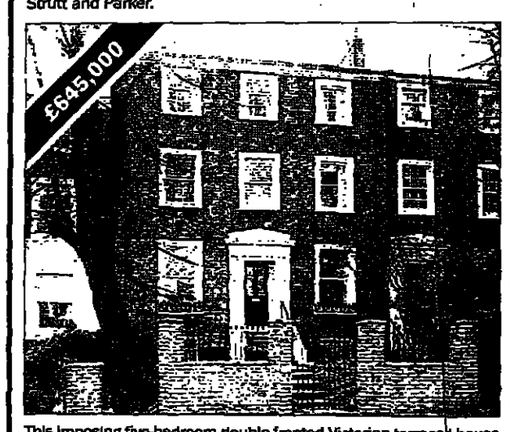
FAITH GLASGOW

HOME SWAP

ALTHOUGH there is more property on the market in Clapham, South London, there are still more buyers than houses for sale. A shortage of good property – from one-bedroom flats at £85,000 to three to five-bedroom Georgian and Victorian houses at £250,000 to £700,000 – coupled with increased demand from young City buyers looking for a London pad close to the Tube, has fuelled price increases of 10 per cent this year. Clapham Old Town, around Grafton Square, with its white stucco houses costing up to £700,000, is the most popular area, according to estate agent Foxtons.

The exodus from the capital continues to push up house prices in Hampshire. Estate agent John D.Wood has a waiting list of London buyers looking for homes in the sought-after Test and Meon Valley areas, where country houses fetch from £450,00 to £700,000. You might find a four-bedroom detached period cottage for less than £250,000, but these are becoming more scarce. Well located period houses within ten miles of Winchester or Basingstoke (50 minutes from Waterloo by fast train), sell quickly, despite price rises of 10 to 15 per cent in the past 12 months.

With Peterborough 45 minutes by fast train from King's Cross and a clutch of good schools, Rutland, England's smallest county, is luring London buyers looking for family homes. Stone-built Georgian houses with four to five bedrooms costing from £300,000 in villages around Rutland Water, such as Empingham, Whitwell and Egleton, are in demand. A shortage of property is forcing up prices, but they are still 30 per cent lower than in areas south of Cambridge, says Strutt and Parker.



This imposing five-bedroom double-fronted Victorian terraced house with a large south-facing rear garden, in Larkhall Rise, near Clapham Old Town, has a price tag of £645,000 (Foxtons, 0171-801 1111).



In Hampshire, £675,000 will buy the Telegraph House at Lockerley, a former 19th-century semaphore house in a glorious hilltop setting with views over the Test Valley. It has six bedrooms, three reception rooms, an all-weather tennis court and 3.5 acres of garden and woodland (John D. Wood, 01962 863131).



For £690,000 you can buy Stibbington Manor, a Grade II listed Jacobean manor house in a 1.3-acre formal garden, in Cambridgeshire, bordering Rutland, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. It has five bedrooms, two attic rooms and four reception rooms, and comes with a traditional coach house, stables and a swimming pool (Strutt & Parker, 01858 433123).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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CHANGING TIMES

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'I go to the cupboard under the stairs to breathe in their rubbery smell and wonder if I'll ever wear them again'

These boots are made for modelling

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

There was a picture of Claudia Schiffer in the newspaper on Monday, wearing a most enormous pair of gumboots. She looked jolly pleased with herself, and I know just how she felt. My recently acquired gumboots are the new love of my life.

I am not, on the whole, a gumbooty sort of person. There isn't much call for them in SE10. I do have a very nasty pair of worn-out wellies, with bald soles and perished inners, which I put on twice a year for muckspreading in the garden. Their final journey to the dustbin is long overdue, but it wouldn't have occurred to me to replace them if Charles hadn't telephoned one morning before breakfast — an hour at which, if the phone rings, I expect it to be bad news.

"Doing anything this weekend?" he said, as I sat on the end of the bed, heart pounding. "Good. Well, will you come and stay for a couple of days? Bring Alexander if you like. Mother likes to make sure he gets a bath and a hot meal occasionally. And you'll need wellingtons." "I haven't got any," I said. "Not proper ones that I can wear. Won't jodhpur boots do, or Doc Martens, if we're going for a walk?" "No," said Charles, who is not a great one for girly chats about clothes. "I'll meet you at the station. Got to go now. I can smell my black pudding and fried bread." And he put the phone down.

Now, Charles is Alexander's particular hero. For one thing, he has a most dreamy collection of agricultural machinery; and then every so often he produces some fascinating coin — a Roman penny, a Maria Theresa thaler — for Alexander's treasure box. But best of all, from Alexander's point of view, he pays absolutely no attention to me. Not any. Not even when I use my special cross voice. Now that Alexander is getting older, I begin to detect some signs of Charles's style in his handling of me, particularly his technique of continuing with whatever he is doing until it suits him to stop, ignoring me as though I was some mildly irritating small bug.

It seemed a bit mean not to take him with me, but half-term was another week away, and I am far too frightened of his teacher to take him out of school for half a day, even though visits to Charles are always so terrifically educational. So, bargaining hard to reduce the number of hours to be spent in church, he set off for the grandparents' house, leaving me to deal with my gumboot conundrum. The pressing need for boots was probably not a good sign. Was I about to become involved in some really revolting agricultural activity? I hadn't been listening to *The Archers* lately, because Kate Aldridge's batty insistence on a home birth makes me savage, so I've no idea if this is the time of year that Joe Grundy gets stuck into dipping for scab and warble fly. Charles's idea of amusement takes many unusual forms. It was perfectly possible that I would spend the whole weekend knee-deep in sheep dip.

Whatever lay ahead, I hadn't much time. It was Thursday evening and I had to catch an early train on Friday morning. Between the time the shops would open, and the time I had to be at the station, lay a window of about half an hour in which to find a suitable pair of boots. No time for window shopping, clearly. Dumping my luggage at the station (I seem incapable of going away, even for a couple of days, without carrying my own body weight in spare cardigans, in case I get cold, and books, in case I run out of conversation), I ran all the way to Piccadilly, where I knew gumboots were to be had because I'd seen them in a shop window earlier that week.

"Quick," I said to a young chap with a bright pink face and matching shirt, "I need some gumboots. It's an emergency." "Certainly Madam," said this obliging fellow, looking a bit doubtfully at my bare feet and silver-lacquered toenails. "And would you like some socks as well?" "Socks?" I said, wildly. "Yes, yes. Why not socks as well?" It was love at first sight. Sea-green woollen shooting socks, they were, with heather-pink roll-down tops and toes and heels to match. I'm sure I've seen Iris Palmer wearing the same pair in *Vogue*, with a sticking-out net dancing frock and a shell-pink cashmere cardigan. And the boots! Glossy chocolate brown with leather linings and zips up the side, like motorcycle boots, and great cleats on the soles. I haven't been so taken with an item of footwear since I bought my gold kid Manolo Blahnik mules. Which is just as well, because they cost almost exactly the same.

It wasn't sheep dip I spent the weekend standing in, but a river — fishing. The boots performed impeccably. I could hardly bear to take them off when it was all over. Back home, I sponged them down, and oiled their zips, and stored them in the cupboard under the stairs, in the cool and dark, as specified. (They came with a most complicated set of instructions for their maintenance, as though they were some kind of highly strung exotic pet.)

Every so often I wander in there, to give them a pat and breathe their nice leathery, rubbery smell, and wonder if I'll ever wear them again. Miss Schiffer, it occurs to me, was wearing her (rather inferior) pair of Hunters with a tight Lycra minidress. Perhaps, together, she and I could set a fashion.

RONALD GRANT



Wills arouse deep feelings that can linger for decades. Disputes are not uncommon, particularly when someone feels they have been overlooked or unfairly dealt with

You mean I get nothing?

Inheritance squabbles are not confined to the rich and famous, says **Emma Haughton**

Few things in life provide more fertile ground for society scandal or blockbuster plots than family disputes over a will, and the death of Frank Sinatra looks likely to initiate a real humdinger.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the battle for his reputed £125 million estate began ten years ago when Sinatra changed his will in favour of his third wife, Barbara Marx. He left her with sole ownership of his two homes, and to his three children by his first wife he left only the rights to his recordings made between 1960 and 1988. Bickering started before his death and looks set to rekindle once the true value of the estate is known.

Wills arouse deep feelings that can linger for decades or drive families to desperate measures.

Take the four daughters of Vicountess Jacqueline de L'Isle, who did not speak to their brother for 30 years when he refused to hand over £3m worth of paintings they believed were bequeathed to them. The *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry tried to forestall a family row by stipulating that any heirs who disputed his will should be immediately disinherited. His daughter Dawn nevertheless challenged the will, and lost a legacy worth hundreds of millions.

Inheritance disputes can be devastating for the individuals concerned. Anna, a successful poet in her fifties, spent five years fighting her stepsister over their mother's will, which left a valuable art collection and three houses to Anna. Her stepsister, however, occupied the family home just before their mother's death.

"When my mother died, my stepsister changed the locks, got dogs, and sold off the art collection and made millions. She thought she should have it all because she was the eldest." Anna spent thousands fighting for her inheritance. "At first the executors said I could get her out, but she's still there. At one point we even paid a lawyer £400 to arbitrate round a table, but she lied and ruined it all. In the end I just gave up. I don't speak to her any more."

From an inheritance worth more just £2,900. "The whole thing has been completely and utterly devastating, not so much for material reasons but because I never realised just what a devious and unhappy person my sister was. It's more the betrayal of the trust than anything else." She feels the acrimony over the will was also responsible for her recent split with her husband. "I'm sure the incredible stress of it all affected my marriage. He was very supportive, but he wanted me to carry on fighting when I wanted to stop. He just couldn't believe she could get away with it."

Richard Bark-Jones, a solicitor and wills expert, says such disputes are not uncommon, particularly when someone feels they have been overlooked or unfairly dealt with. But quite often it comes down to what he calls "the vulture syndrome".

"The sense of injustice can be very real, but often greed is the greatest motivator," he says.

"If there's a lot of money involved it can be just too tempting. It's amazing how, following a death, hitherto friendly members fall out and argue over what's been left.

"It's not unknown for families to descend on the house of the deceased and strip it bare even before the undertakers arrive."

But the damage caused by will disputes is not just emotional, he warns. "Going to court really tears families apart. It's not just that family relationships break down: you end up with horrendous legal costs that have to be paid out of the estate. Sometimes there's nothing left."

Being left out of a will, also canbe very painful. For Lucy, 42, discovering that her parents had left their house to her brother reopened old childhood wounds. "I know they felt he needed more support, but it was incredibly hurtful," she says. "It brought out all my worries about favouritism, and all our ancient jealousies and rivalries. It wasn't just the money. I had this terrible feeling of being disinherited."

PICTORIAL PRESS LTD



Sinatra with daughter Nancy. His estate could be worth £125 million



Comedian Hughie Green changed his will ten days before he died in favour of his mistress Christina Sharples, leaving his two children with "a tiny percentage" of the estate



The comic Bernard Manning was at the centre of a family feud when his brother Jack left him £80,000. Five of Jack's seven children took action but the judge ruled against them



No one could find a will when the billionaire Howard Hughes died. Several people laid claim to his estate including two "sons", and an actress who claimed to be his wife

MAKE A WILL



■ Make a will as soon as you own a house or other valuable assets. Nearly 70 per cent do not bother, leaving even more room for dispute when they die intestate.

■ Use a solicitor. "Wills are technical documents and you can make awful bloomers doing it yourself," says Richard Bark-Jones. "We make much more money sorting out bad wills than drawing up good ones."

■ If you want to cut someone out, say exactly why. The courts may still rule in their favour, but at least the judge can take your views into account.

■ When someone disputes a will, it is often cheaper to compromise than to go to court. Even an average dispute can cost about £10,000.

Others are left utterly perplexed by a relative's last gesture from the grave. Jennifer, 38, was shocked when she discovered her father had left everything to his girlfriend of four years: "It was bad enough when he left my mother after 42 years to live with a woman 20 years younger, but the will was so horrible. It didn't even mention my mother or us four children, he didn't even leave a memento or piece of furniture. That was what was so hurtful."

Jennifer has no idea why her father did it. She had maintained a good relationship with him, right up to their poignant farewell when he was dying of cancer. "So the will really left a bitter taste in my mouth. He'd included a whole page about his eternal undying love for this woman, which he knew my mother and other people would read. It felt really callous."

She feels particularly sorry for her mother, who supported her father for years while he set up a successful business and is now left with a bitter legacy. "She was still married to him, but he even cashed in all his private pensions so she wouldn't get anything at all. It was so calculated."

Attached, but not exclusively

Terri Paddock discovers a dating agency — for married couples

Helen was lonely. She lives in a remote village in East Anglia and most of her friends are married with hectic family lives. She had trouble meeting men, let alone men she, as a well-educated doctor in her fifties, could relate to.

One day she saw an advertisement in a newspaper for an introduction service. After some hesitation, she signed on and began to receive newsletters filled with personal ads from other like-minded professionals. Before long, she was having dates with prospective suitors.

What makes Helen's story different from thousands of other people who have found romance through dating agencies is that she is married, as is her new love interest. This service was set up exclusively for individuals who are either married or in steady relationships. There are now 700 members across the country.

Though many might accuse David Miller, Loving Links founder, of tearing marriages apart, he believes that he is helping to keep them together. "Within marriages of eight or nine years, about 35 per cent have celibacy problems," explains Miller. "That is the nature of passion — it dies out." But the end of passion need not mean the end of marriage. Many other factors — such as children or finances — can keep a couple together.

At the same time, it is cruel — and hypocritical, says Miller — to expect people to remain monogamous in such situations. Loving Links provides a safe alternative to the often disastrous office affair. All subscribers enter knowing the ground rules — everyone is attached and wants to stay that way.

Toni, a Surrey-based civil servant in her late thirties, says she and her partner have been together for ten years and he is the person she wants to grow old with. But two years ago, he developed health problems that led to impotency.

"The bitterness that was building up was threatening to destroy our relationship," she says. Toni finally turned outside the partnership to find what he could not provide. Since joining Loving Links in November, she has had more than 20 dates, though none has yet progressed beyond the initial meeting. "Choosing the second relationship is just as important to me as the first," Toni explains.

'Choosing the second relationship is just as important as the first'

Miller says that although liaisons should never threaten marriages, casual sex is also discouraged. Miller insists that he is not running a "nookie shop" and he tries to screen out anyone who might think otherwise. Trained as a psychologist, he also runs an alternative relationship helpline four nights a week.

Julia Cole, a Relate counsellor, however, believes that Toni, Helen and others like them should be seeking comfort within their marriages, with the help of a counsellor if necessary. "Affairs are indicative of a greater problem in the relationship," she says. According to Cole, there are three primary reasons for infidelity: the cry for help (the offender feels neglected and wants to be noticed), the door-opener (the offender wants to build a path out of the relationship) or sexual difficulties (the offender blames the partner for sexual problems). In any case, says Cole, affairs always lead to grief. "Even if your partner never finds out, it will alter the way you think about that person," she says. "This kind of secret is like a cancer, it eats away at the core of a relationship."

Miller disagrees. "In about 10 per cent of cases, the client's spouse is either aware of the agency or the extra-marital affair. This is especially true where the spouse has a long-term disability. For the majority though, to tell the spouse would be gratuitously hurting the other person. And completely pointless."

And although there have been a few cases which have ended in divorce, he insists that this is rare, and happens only with couples who are using the agency to extricate themselves from a marriage.

Contact Loving Links (0181-962 6300): david@lovinglinks.co.uk

SCOPE/TRANSWORLD

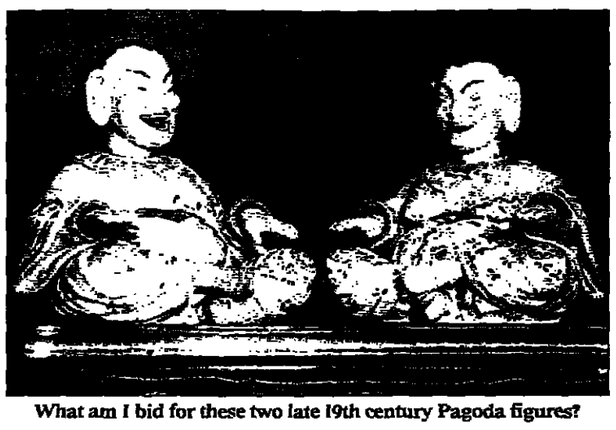


Loving Links says it is not a "nookie shop" for couples

Going with a bang — of a hammer

Everybody loves an auction, especially when it features lots from a stately home.

June Ducas goes in search of a bargain



What am I bid for these two late 19th century Pagoda figures?

The British seem to have lost none of the passion for collecting which obsessed the fledgling grandees of the 18th century. Apart from a great deal of carousing, these young lords would often return to England from the Grand Tour with caches of fine paintings and treasures to embellish their stately homes.

But their descendants often became strapped for cash so they flogged off their heritage, sometimes for a pittance. In 1848, the Duke of Buckingham sold Stowe and its priceless effects in a 40-day auction for far less than their real value. In the 1950s aristocrats, asset-rich in land but with no money, gave their houses away to the National Trust.

Today, the country house sale has become a highly profitable and entertaining event. "The British love rifling through other people's possessions," says Philip Astley-Jones, an expert in furniture and the decorative arts. "One man's junk is another man's gold."

Country house sale enthusiasts are in a fever of expectation, thumbing through the catalogue of Sotheby's three-day sale (starting on June 22) at West Wycombe Park in Buckinghamshire — the Dashwood's glorious colonnaded and porticoed Palladian seat. Moving out to make way for his 34-year-old son, Edward, his wife, Lucinda and their three small children, Sir Francis Dashwood, 73, is selling more than 300 lots to fund the conversion of his new abode — an 18th-century sawmill on the estate. To begin with, Edward Dashwood wryly suggested that his father was planning a rather upmarket car boot sale, but Sotheby's proposed a grander affair in a giant marquee with the furniture and objects displayed in room sets — all lined in Colefax and Fowler wallpaper.

This is a joint house sale, with works of art from nine other country houses, including Stoney Thorpe Hall in Warwickshire and Moncreiffe House in Perthshire, recently inherited by the Hon Peregrine Moncreiffe from his cousin. From Lingholme in Cumbria (where Beatrix Potter wrote *Squirrel Nutkin*) there is also a welter of fine oak continental furniture, silver and glass collected by the first Lord Rochdale. And experts will be keeping an eye out for interesting *objets d'art* from Sam Whitbread's Southill Park.

Top-notch stately homes, sold in their entirety, are becoming rarer and rarer, although the salerooms live in hope that a duke with three houses will decide to get rid of one. As one well born-sage put it: "When I was a boy we used to live in the attics — now we live on them."

So what is the appeal when those days are over? "It's snob value," says antique dealer Lady Inchrya. "The fascination of owning something with an historical provenance."

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Sir Francis Dashwood with some priceless possessions before they fall under the autioneer's hammer

"The viewing day of the country house sale is an amusing party," says London dealer Christopher Gibbs. "Although it is not necessarily heavyweight stuff, things appear that haven't been seen for years. Inevitably, there are bargains. But buyers are pitting their wits against us pros who earn our living by knowing what is what."

Nevertheless the *Antiques Road Show*, magazines like *World of Interiors* and the auctioneer's PR machines have promoted wider knowledge and interest. More than 2,000 viewers a day are expected at the auction.

Well-known as an adventurer, bon-viveur and connoisseur, Sir Francis' collection of commodes and tables, gilded mirrors, painted torchères, marble busts and Russian procelain figures are certainly too splendid for a car boot sale. He won't comment on the amount he expects the lots to make. In anticipation, Sir Francis is planning a dinner for 200 friends with music and fireworks to celebrate the tercentenary of Dashwoods at West Wycombe and his own departure from the house. "Unlike Lord Astor who left Hever with tears streaming down his face through a line of bobbing housemaids, I want to go out with a bang. To the sound of popping corks and laughter." With the profits from sale, no doubt he will.

● *Sotheby's (0171-293 5000) sale at West Wycombe Park, Buckinghamshire. June 22-24. Public viewing June 19-21.*

Bugged by Bugs Bunny

Derwent May struggles to get to grips with his virtual rabbit

The peace of my house has been badly disturbed during the past few days by the grating sound of Bugs Bunny eating a carrot. The reason is that I have been nursing a Giga Pet — one of the new generation of those electronic or "virtual" friends that began with the arrival a year or so ago of the Tamagotchis.

It consists of a little green plastic case a couple of inches high that stands on two blue webbed feet and contains a miniature screen. On this screen a spectral Bugs Bunny, made up of a few dots and dashes, hops about, chews his carrot and emits from time to time this ghastly noise. But he can do many other things too, and I can do many other things for him.

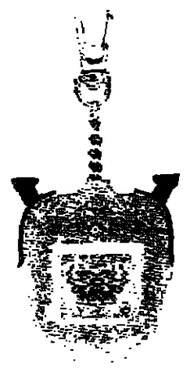
Five tiny green buttons beneath the screen control his life. With these, if I know how, I can feed him healthy food or unhealthy treats, wash him, and even discipline him. I can also send him to sleep, when the letters z-z-z appear on the screen before it turns dark and the moon comes out —but he soon wakes up again.

Another combination enables me to check on the state of his welfare. A set of symbols and numbers appears on the screen indicating how well-fed he is, how well-trained, and his general state of health and happiness. He needs to get 80 out of 100 for most of the time on these criteria, and if I find any of them dropping down towards 20 I have to press buttons like mad to restore him to some degree of fitness. If I let him get too low, he will die. At present I am doing quite well, though I fell dangerously low on training this morning.

However, I can only do all this because an 11-year-old boy taught me how. I have to say that the instructions that came with my Giga Pet were, like so many modern sets of instructions, absolutely baffling. An 11-year-old boy is an essential supplement to them.

But why, why I am doing it? It is of course all very ingenious, and once one has begun, pride urges one to master the problems of the Pet. It is also very like a real pet with its many needs, and has almost the power over one of a whining dog.

But there is also something dreadful about it, a sort of sensuous barrenness. The object itself is ugly plastic. The animals and their surroundings and possessions are just tiny boring sketches on a screen less than an inch square.



The Looney Tunes Giga Pet

There is no soft fur here to cuddle, no look of pleading or pleasure in a dog's eyes, no sound of him yapping with delight. There is just the pure mental anxiety of caring for your "pet", without any of the rich emotional pleasure.

One must not be too solemn. There is a touch of fun about it, and this new model incorporates a light so you can play with it in the dark, a means of operating some of the activities just by speaking to it, and a tiny element of skill in the games the animals play.

However, I have a strong suspicion that I shall soon do what my 11-year-old told me many of his (real, not virtual) friends have done — stop pressing the buttons and let my Bugs Bunny pass away. I may feel the tiniest pang of regret.

● *The Looney Tunes Giga Pet, £12.99, is available from toy shops*

PRIZE DRAW AND OFFER THE TIMES

FLY BRITISH MIDLAND FROM £60 RETURN



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● **Flights to 15 destinations throughout the UK and Europe *from just £60 return*, per person ● Choose from nine airports in Britain and Ireland ● Enjoy two nights away or *more* ● Fly between July 6 and December 17, 1998**

To celebrate British Midland's Diamond Jubilee, *The Times* offers you big savings on return flights to 15 destinations throughout the UK and Europe. Prices start from as little as £60 return and you could save as much as £39 on your ticket compared with British Midland's lowest published fares. A table of destinations and fares was published on Thurday May 21.

British Midland has more than 1,500 flights a week serving 28 destinations throughout the UK and Europe.

It was voted Best European Short-Haul Airline 1997.

HOW TO APPLY You can fly from London Heathrow to Dublin for just £60 return. From Edinburgh or Glasgow you can take a return flight to London for only £60, or fly to Paris for just £117 and to Cologne for only £142. Simply collect 12 differently numbered tokens, 10 from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*, and attach them to an application form. The last token will be printed in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow. One application is valid for two return tickets. Only one application per person and two applications per household are permitted. Applications must be received by Friday June 5, 1998. You will receive a fulfilment pack with a British Midland discount-flight voucher, a timetable and details of how to book your tickets. Allow 28 days for delivery. Bookings must be made between Mon June 22 and Fri July 31, 1998, at least 14 days before you wish to travel. All flights must originate from the UK or Dublin. All flights to Europe are via Heathrow or East Midlands. This offer is open to UK and Republic of Ireland residents only. It is subject to availability, so book early. The offer is for a minimum two-night stay and two people must travel together. No travel is permitted on any Sunday or on flights departing after 2pm on Fridays. Full terms and conditions appeared in *The Times* on Monday. Inquiries to: British Midland helpline 01455 213443 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm until Tuesday, June 30.

THE TIMES BM British Midland UK AND EUROPE FLIGHT OFFER TOKEN 12

Win one of 500 pairs of tickets in British Midland's Diamond Jubilee prize draw

This year British Midland celebrates 60 years of high-flying success. To mark the airline's achievement, Times readers are offered the chance to win one of 500 pairs of British Midland return tickets from London Heathrow to Amsterdam for just 60p each in our exclusive prize draw. Simply collect four tokens to enter. British Midland will donate the 60p charge to Save the Children.

HOW TO ENTER *Collect three differently numbered tokens from The Times and one token from The Sunday Times. Send them with the completed prize-draw entry form, right, plus your answer to the competition question. Winners will be selected at random from all the correct entries received by Friday, June 5, 1998. Winners will get a voucher for two return tickets from London Heathrow to Amsterdam for 60p each, subject to the terms and conditions which were published in The Times on Monday.*

THE TIMES PRIZE DRAW TOKEN 12

BRITISH MIDLAND PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

Attach three differently numbered prize draw tokens from *The Times* and one from *The Sunday Times* to this completed form and post it to: *The Times*/British Midland Diamond Jubilee Prize Draw, PO Box 79, Fenny Drayton, Nuneaton, CV13 6ZX. *Entries should arrive no later than* Friday June 5, 1998.

Which anniversary is British Midland celebrating this year?
☐ 25th ☐ 40th ☐ 60th

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Surname .....
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BM British Midland
The Airline for Europe

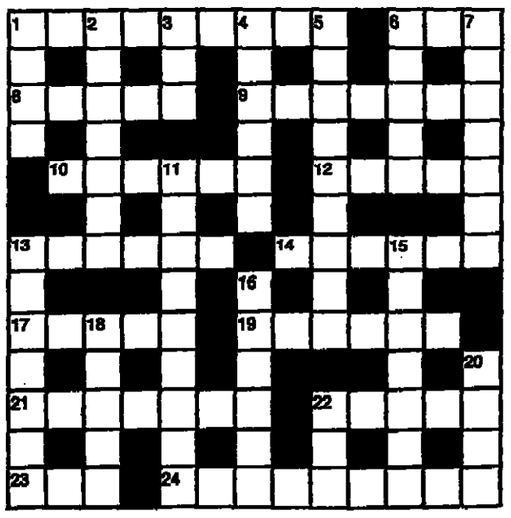
CHANGING TIMES

SOLUTION TO MAY DAY JUMBO 164

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The winners of £100 in our May Day Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword are Mr R.L. Walters, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; Mrs Susan Stratton, of Altrincham, Cheshire; F.H.H. Pilkington, of Hereford, Herefordshire; Mr A. Jarvie, of Bassett, Wiltshire; Pam Kissen, of Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire; Hugh Pain, of Lingfield, Surrey

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1413

ACROSS
1 Explosive: horrid surprise (9)
6 Harmless concession (3)
8 Rugby formation (5)
9 Water tank (7)
10 Be biased towards (6)
12 Brazilian dance (5)
13 Comedian's lines: sound of tiny feet (6)
14 Well-lit: intelligent (6)
17 A lily: forgetfulness fruit (5)
19 Sir Isaac —, 1642-1727 (6)
21 Admit (wrong) (7)
22 Concert-party instrument (5)
23 Having as maiden name (3)
24 Fruit: grenade *(slang)* (9)

DOWN
1 Soak up (sun, praise) (4)
2 Acid, sarcastic (7)
3 Type of missile *(acronym)*: —Browne (3)
4 Again! (6)
5 It finally breaks one (4,5)
6 Energy: a gas (5)
7 Hanging ornament (7)
11 Wake up late (9)
13 Waterbird, symbol of charity (7)
15 Adult (5-2)
16 (Played at) same pitch (6)
18 Touch of colour (5)
20 Part of body: indecent, close to it (4)
22 Feather scarf: a snake (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1412
ACROSS: 1 Commando 5 Smug 9 Vicious circle 10 Polo 11 Sextant 13 Martyr 15 Screen 18 Goliath 20 Ante 23 Arms and the Man 24 Type 25 Swimming
DOWN: 1 Cavy 2 Macho 3 Apology 4 Desist 6 Macramé 7 Greeting 8 Jinx 12 Emigrant 14 Rollmop 16 Chatham 17 Shadow 19 Alas 21 Tempi 22 Snag



A VET WRITES

Q I let my budgie [illegible] spend the day out of its cage, so he can fly round the kitchen and dining room. Last week I found him on the draining board chewing the remains of fried chicken leg I had had for lunch. I took it away immediately. What would have happened had not caught him in time?

A Bernard [illegible] his nibble of [illegible] and been better [illegible] four or five [illegible] now recolonising. He [illegible] attention and has learnt [illegible] miaowing or biting your ankles. He says. This has to change [illegible] him twice a day at [illegible] convention in you and [illegible] food dish away at all [illegible] times, but keep water available. Ignore all miaows. If he continues ankle-nipping, [illegible] a loaded water pistol to hand and teach him that biting is followed by a jet of water. Put a travelling cage and shut him

Q My cat, a five-year-old neutered tom, miaows all the time. Every time I go near his dish he asks for extra food and if I walk past him he miaows to get attention. He wakes up early and gives voice as soon as it is daylight. He is very affectionate and rather cuddly, and he has bitten my ankles once or twice when his feelings have overcome him. A friend suggested some sort of calming remedy in his drinking water. Would this help?

A Medicines will not [illegible] your cat's [illegible] nor desensitising. He [illegible] attention and has learnt [illegible] miaowing or biting your ankles. He says. This has to change [illegible] him twice a day at [illegible] convention in you and [illegible] food dish away at all [illegible] times, but keep water available. Ignore all miaows. If he continues ankle-nipping, [illegible] a loaded water pistol to hand and teach him that biting is followed by a jet of water. Put a travelling cage and shut him

JA

هكذا من الأصل

ASHLEY COOMBES



Carol Ingram with a White Topps guest. She met her husband, David, while they were both staying at the hotel with their dogs

Where the barking mad go for their holidays

Andrew Morgan on a hotel where dogs are not just welcome — they are compulsory



To stay at Marjorie Titchen's hotel, you need one crucial accessory — a dog. No dog, no vacancies. Great Dane or Yorkshire terrier, elderly or pup, a dog must be on your arm. Mrs Titchen drifts into mellow reverie as she recalls the time last year when 11 guests and 21 dogs, including six of her own, slept at the White Topps Hotel in Bournemouth, Dorset. No breed is barred. "The most important guest is your dog," she says.

One woman has stayed with 12 chihuahuas in her room, while a London postman, Joe Castillego, brings three rottweilers, an alsatian, a bulldog and a mongrel. A Sussex woman who stays with her four boxers is known as "Shirley and the Hoolies", as in hooligans. "Other hotels welcome dogs as long as they never yap and sleep in the car," she says. "Some even suggest it might be better boarding the animal at kennels."

There is no charge for dogs at White Topps and they have the run of the place, including the dining-room, where a giant porcelain alsatian, called Algernon, wearing a straw hat, surveys his territory.

Strange dogs in a strange environment sounds like a recipe for warfare but Mrs Titchen cannot recall a hostile incident. Indeed, she says the dogs, which sleep in their own baskets in their owner's bedrooms, are very quiet. However, there was a rumpus in the lounge once when a woman decided to give biscuits to several dogs at once. "Apart from the odd unguarded moment, dog owners are realistic and know their dog's temperament," she says. "They won't let their pet mix with others if it's sensitive.

"One dog may dislike another because it was once bitten by the same breed, but you often find they ignore each other and just sit in different parts of the room. One Jack Russell didn't want to come in after seeing an alsatian but then he met a female collie and wanted to be inside with his new girlfriend."

Owners usually bring their dog's food but Mrs Titchen is not averse to cooking chicken or best steak if required. Dogs may eat anywhere they like and there are doggie-bags for owners who want to take food away for their pets.

"We love it here," says Elizabeth O'Connor, from north London, who has been coming for ten years with her husband, Maurice, and their alsatian, Sheilagh. "Dogs take priority here and we feel totally relaxed, with no restrictions. We sensed the atmosphere the minute we walked in." Brenda Morris, a retired chemistry teacher from Redditch, with her mongrel, Nipper, is on her first visit. "You're a social pariah if you smoke and have dogs. I'm guilty on both counts but Marjorie allows both so it's perfect."

Knocking over a glass or cup on the lounge carpet is not considered a heinous offence. Hence, the furniture could be described as "lived-in". Mrs Titchen and her late husband, Bill, bought White Topps 31 years ago but found that dogs did not mix well with non-pet owners. An "atmosphere" developed if a dog did not take a shine to a particular guest. Mrs Titchen says: "I don't like the general public because they're selfish. Dog owners have time for others. We decided to attract only owners. Dogs need their holidays, too."

Mrs Titchen, who runs the hotel with her son, Bill, and daughter, Christine, also works for dog rescue. All the family's six dogs were rescued. In the hotel, however, their pets stay in the conservatory at the back. "We'd love them to mix with the guest dogs but we'd have to watch all the doors. Losing one would be terrible."

Children under 12 are not accepted at White Topps in case they upset the dogs. "Screams from a child falling over must be unbearable for a dog," says Mrs Titchen.

Dogs not only result in guests making friends, but finding life partners, too. One guest, David Ingram, was walking his spaniels when he met his future wife, Carol, as she walked her Airedale. They spent their honeymoon, with dogs, at the hotel last year.

White Topps has seven rooms, with one double room on the ground floor for elderly or disabled dogs which have trouble with stairs. The walls are covered with dog-motif paper, as are lamp-shades and curtains.

"I'm sure Sheilagh [the alsatian] won't mind if I show you her room," says Mrs Titchen. "Some may find it quaint, but I don't care." Shelves groan with porcelain dogs and there are dog poems, photos, cartoons, paintings, sketches, mugs and clocks.

Dogs and their owners have their pictures taken before they leave and the photographs are mounted on wallboards and in albums. "There's been a growth in the anti-dog lobby over the years," says Mrs Titchen. "But people come here because they think dogs can do no wrong."

● *A half-board stay at White Topps costs £33.50 per person a night, or £220 a week. The hotel is open from Easter to October and also at Christmas (01202 428868).*



Guests relaxing with their pets in the hotel lounge. Dogs and owners are offered the same meals and facilities

Never have so many owed so much to a cat

Jock the cat will live at Chartwell for ever, says **Sue Corbett**



Ms Leighton with Jock III

Stately homes left to the nation seldom have a permanent resident, bar the odd ghost, mouse or housekeeper. One National Trust house, however, goes out of its way to ensure it is always occupied — by a fat marmalade cat.

"Sir Winston requested in his will that there should always be a marmalade cat named Jock in comfortable residence at Chartwell," explains Victoria Leighton, part of whose job description is to look after the current incumbent, six-year-old Jock III. "We have to be careful where he goes, though, as his claws could do a lot of damage. We try to ensure he keeps to the garden, where he sits happily in the catmint or any patch of sunshine."

Sir Winston Churchill was silly about cats — particularly marmalade ones, which would sit next to him on a specially reserved chair. None of his spoilt marmalades were fond of the other furry creatures of Chartwell, though. Churchill reported to his wife in August 1954 that her Siamese cat Gabriel "gets on very well with everyone except his yellow rival", with whom the relationship could best be described as "an armed neutrality".

The great wartime leader was capable of dividing his favours, however, and was to be observed working at his memoirs with a budgerigar perched on his head, a ginger cat on his lap and a poodle asleep across his feet.

A ginger cat with white chest and paws was an 88th birthday present for Churchill in November 1962, and was promptly named Jock, after the private secretary Sir John Colville, known as Jock, who gave it to him. This cat was such a favourite that he is even seen sitting on Churchill's knee in his grandson Winston's wedding photographs. Jock was only two when Churchill died in 1965, but lived on until 1974 at Chartwell and is now buried in the pet cemetery there.

In compliance with Churchill's wishes, the National Trust — which inherited Chartwell on his death — has since acquired ginger cats called Jocks II and III.

Another good reason for barring Jock III from the main rooms may be the goldfish in what was Churchill's study. "When Sir Winston was at Downing Street," says Mrs Leighton, "some children knocked at the door to give him some goldfish they'd won at the fair. He soon became an expert and kept them ever after. So we maintain that tradition, too."

Denied the goldfish, Jock III has to content himself with tins of catfood and the occasional mouse from the garden. "He's certainly a mouser," says Mrs Leighton, "but I'm thankful to say he doesn't bring them indoors."

The public can visit Jock III at Chartwell, Westerham, Kent (01732 866368).

CAMERA PRESS



Churchill and family with the original Jock at Chartwell

A VET WRITES

Q I let my budgie Bert spend the day out of his cage, so he can fly round the kitchen and dining room. Last week I found him on the draining board chewing the remains of fried chicken leg I had had for lunch. I took it away immediately. What would have happened if I had not caught him in time?

A Bert would have enjoyed his nibble of chicken — and been better for it. Budgerigar breeders used to hang a cooked chicken carcass in the aviary so the birds could peck at it and enjoy bits of meat, fat and skin. The birds looked better, with sleeker, better coloured feathers — and won more prizes. Bert would appreciate a chance to share your lunch next time fried chicken is on the menu and the bare bone alone makes an entertaining toy for him.

Q My cat, a five-year-old neutered tom, miaows all the time. Every time I go near his dish he asks for extra food and if I walk past him he miaows to get attention. He wakes up early and gives voice as soon as it is daylight. He is very affectionate and rather excitable, and he has bitten my ankles once or twice when his feelings have overcome him. A friend suggested some sort of calming remedy in his drinking water. Would this help?

A Medicines will not help. Your cat needs training, not tranquillising. He likes attention and has learnt that miaowing or biting your ankle pays. This has to change. Feed him twice a day at times convenient to you and take his food dish away at all other times, but keep water available. Ignore all miaows. If he continues ankle-nipping, keep a loaded water pistol to hand and teach him that biting is followed by a jet of water. Buy in that overnight — behind a closed door — so you are not disturbed by his contributions to the dawn chorus. He will adapt to a changed routine in a matter of months — do not give up when you feel sorry for him. He is the unreasonable one, not you.

Q My dog Susie developed a bad cough six months ago. I took her to the vet after ten days and the diagnosis was "kennel cough". Susie had not been in kennels but I understand it is a viral infection, often caught when dogs live close together. She was given antibiotics for two months. X-rayed and given an endoscope examination, and washings from her trachea have been examined by a laboratory. She still has a bout of coughing every day, after which she eats grass and makes herself sick. Will she cough for the rest of her life? Could the infection have damaged her throat?

A Kennel cough is an infection of the upper parts of the respiratory tract — the trachea and bronchi — caused by combinations of viruses, bacteria and other microorganisms. The precise mix of germs in any particular case determines the success of treatment. Because the infection has persisted for some time — and it often does — the linings of the airways to Susie's lungs will have reacted by thickening and producing excess fluid, in the form of phlegm, nature's attempt to kill the infection. Susie tries to get rid of accumulated pleghm by coughing and making herself sick. She will improve in time and summer weather will help, but an occasional bout of coughing might be part of her life for ever more. It is probably more worrying for you than Susie.

JAMES ALLCOCK

It's a five-star dog's life



Roy Hattersley and Buster

Buster, a three-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier, is a connoisseur of canine-friendly hotel rooms — on average he stays in one a week with his owner Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader of the Labour Party. He also packs a warning sign saying: "Do Not Disturb — Dog in Room", after a bad experience.

He says: "We were staying at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool and the chambermaid accidentally left the wardrobe door open. When I came back, Buster had eaten three days' supply of dog food and the next few hours were spent walking it off."

The Lygon Arms in Broadway, Worcestershire, is one of the hundreds of animal-friendly hotels that not only puts up with canine companions, but welcomes them with trays of food, water and a clean blanket. Many hotels provide special food — from vegetarian titbits to chunks of game. The Lygon's head chef, Roger Narbett, says the most popular treat is a steak.

There are a host of canine-friendly pubs in Britain which allow dogs in at mealtimes; those displaying a Golden Bowl symbol, listed in *Pets Welcome*, also offer accommodation. The Stag Inn at Dufton, Cumbria, for example, charges £40 for a double room and will provide tinned dog food. Most inns, however, will expect you to bring your own dog basket.

The Britannia Inn at Elterwater, Cumbria, welcomes canine guests for the night for £62. Animals can sleep in the same room as their owners and are offered the same menu.

For those with horses, The British Horse Society lists almost 300 horse-friendly hotels in Britain in *Bed and Breakfast for Horses*. Alternatively, riders can contact Adrian Moyes, who started his company, Bridle Rides, in 1993. Moyes will book accommodation, suggest pubs for lunch and provide an Ordnance Survey map, as well as giving advice on places of interest along the way.

Many B&B owners admit there are occasionally fights between dogs, but say that most four-legged visitors soon settle in and enjoy each other's company. One dog lover, Paul O'Grady — better known as Lily Savage — remembers one incident when he took his mongrel to a deluxe hotel in Birmingham, only for it to disappear. O'Grady says: "Five minutes later he came back with a piece of steak. He'd nicked it from one of the conference rooms."

DEBORAH KING

● *Kennel Club (0171-493 6651); Pets Welcome, FHG publications, £4.95; Lygon Arms Hotel (01386 852255); Bridle Rides (01865 880176); British Horse Society (01926 707700)*



ADOPT US

DUCHESS, a five-year-old white cat, and Max, a seven-year-old collie-cross, are looking for a new home after the death of their owner. They are affectionate and playful, but are ideally looking for a quiet home with a mature but gentle owner where they could stay together. If you would like to adopt them, please contact the Wood Green Animal Shelter (01480 830014) quoting references: Duchess KC83573 and Max KD97944.

THE TIMES

The ultimate event for pet lovers



SEE PETS PETS PETS AT STATELY HOMES

May 30-31: Highclere Castle, Berkshire
June 6-7: Harewood House, Leeds
June 20-21: Knebworth, Stevenage

Today *The Times* invites readers to visit Pets Pets Pets, a series of weekend shows in May and June, to be filmed live by Channel 4's *Pet Rescue*.

Times readers can purchase a family ticket for five people for only £12.50 when they book in advance by calling the hotline below. All readers quoting *The Times* will be entered into a free prize draw to win five years' supply of pet food from Burgess Supafeeds.

The Pets Pets Pets Show, in association with Sainsbury's Pet Club, will feature more than 30 live demonstrations daily.

In the 500-seater indoor theatre you can enjoy: cats behaving badly, dog make-overs, rescued reptiles, advice for parrots and sniffer dogs.

The outdoor animal arena has: terrier racing, hawk and eagle flying, sheep dog demonstrations and a parade of pedigree dogs.

PETS PETS PETS SHOW

INFO AND TICKETS: 0121-767 4353
Open Mon-Fri 9am-9pm Sat-Sun 10am-5pm

CHANGING TIMES

Chaplains at Heathrow offer care and counselling to all who need it, says **Ruby Millington**

Nearer my God to Thee

SIMON WALKER



The Rev Murray Thomsett, right, talks to the captain of a Canadian Airlines DC-10 before it departs from Heathrow

Heathrow is the world's busiest international airport. Last year the 100 airlines that serve it carried around 57 million people — more than the population of Britain — to about 220 destinations. With so many people in such a stressful and artificial environment, almost anything can happen and, when it does, it is often a chaplain who plays *trouble-shooter*.

Three full-time chaplains and a pool of more than 30 part-timers cater to all faiths and someone is on call 24 hours a day. Between them the chaplains speak a fair few of the 160 languages used at Heathrow and are matched to their terminals accordingly. Thus the Free Church chaplain, the Rev David Holmwood, who worked in Brazil as a missionary, divides his time between Terminal 3, home of Brazilian airline Varig, and Terminal 2, where Portuguese airline TAP is based. The Roman Catholic chaplain, Father Brian Laycock, who speaks Italian, works in Terminal 1 which serves most European destinations.

The Rev Murray Thomsett speaks French but his lifelong passion for planes means he is also fluent in the jargon of air cargo balances and fuel consumption. "It helps to have a common language and be able to get on to Concorde and discuss the hydraulic failures with the engineers," says Mr Thomsett, who was ordained six years ago following a career as an engineer. He works in Terminal 4 and has found that an evangelical approach pays off. "You can't sit in an office because nobody comes to you," he says. His modus operandi is to dash aboard BA flights in the seven-minute gap between staff and passenger boarding. "I hop on and let them know that if there is an incoming flight with harassed passengers or crew, to call ahead and let us know," he says. Mr Thomsett has even held Easter and Christmas communions on the concourse with a piece of wood balanced between two luggage trolleys providing an impromptu altar and services announced by Tannoy. "I do it twice — once landside, once airside, where there's a quiet little area just by Gate 16," he says. "I'm hoping to get a quiet prayer room but, unfortunately, every spare foot of space is turned into a shop."

> 'A job we can't do is get luggage through any quicker'

Nevertheless, a small patch of valuable space was set aside by Heathrow Airport Authority for a multi-faith prayer room which opened last week as a complement to the existing Ecumenical Christian Chapel of St George, opposite the Terminal 2 car park. St George was built 30 years ago, but the crypt-style design prevented wheelchair access which made it impossible for many pilgrims to celebrate Mass en route to Lourdes.

The chapel is still used for Father Laycock's two daily Masses and five Sunday services, and for special services and celebrations. Christmas is a particularly busy period for airport and chapel alike. There are carol services as well as the Lockerbie Memorial Service, for which the congregation grows each year as more of those connected to Pan Am flight 104 feel able to attend for the first time.

The number of staff weddings taking place in the chapel is decreasing, however. Heathrow may be handy for the honeymoon but, as Father Laycock points out, at least as far as Catholics are concerned, conflicting shifts prevent most couples from attending the six months' instruction.

The erratic work patterns of staff and rapid turnover of passengers can also make it hard for the chaplains to have a sense of continuity. Salvation Army Commissioner Winifred Pender, who joined the team last July, admits the work took some getting used to. "I have been a Salvation Army officer all my life and usually I've been able to follow a person's problem through. Here it's different because very often you don't know the end of the story," she says. "To begin with I would go home and worry about people at night. But I have a strong faith. I believe God has given me the opportunity to be here for His purposes so I just say, 'Over to you now God; I can't do any more'."

She has found that in a confusing environment such as Heathrow, people need guidance of a practical, as well as spiritual, nature: "People often ask me for information or what time their plane goes and usually I can at least point them in the right direction."

Terminal 4, where Mrs Pender and Mr Thomsett share the workload, handles mostly long-haul flights so reluctant flyers requiring counselling are rare. With a passenger crisis Mr Thomsett can ease a distressed person's passage through immigration. "There are always queues but there are ways to bypass the formalities and if we take someone to the staff gate they know it is for something special," he says.

"But one thing we can't do is get the luggage through any quicker. There is nothing anyone can do about that."

● *Heathrow Chaplain's Office (0181-745 4261).*

A cause for nightmares



A last-minute sermon proved an inspiration, says **Ruth Gledhill**.

IT WAS the stuff that Old Etonians' nightmares must be made of. The Rev Edward Wright, an unassuming but unmistakably upper-crust alumnus of this venerable institution, had forsaken a career in property to pursue a more spiritual path as vicar of a medieval church in a picturesque, unspoilt corner of the Kent countryside.

In an effort to pour some new life into his Anglican congregation, nestled comfortably among the Hoo villages just 35 miles from London, Mr Wright had invited a local Pentecostal minister to preach. We sat expectantly in the pews, waiting to be transformed by the gifts of the spirit that might descend on us.

But sadly, due to a tragedy in his family, the Pentecostal minister was unable to come.

Mr Wright not only found himself having to prepare a sermon at the last minute but was more than happy to deliver a fiery, charismatic sermon similar to that we had been led to believe would be our fare that day.

He also decided bravely to press ahead with what had been the Pentecostal minister's intention that day — to ask members of the congregation who wanted to make a public commitment to Christ to come to the altar.

"Heavenly father, we thank you that we can meet in the name of Jesus," Mr Wright said in his opening prayer. We said confession.

Mr Wright preached on Saul's conversion to St Paul on the road to Damascus. "Paul was a very religious man," he said. "Paul was concerned for truth, for God's glory. He thought people who were following Jesus, the way, were doing a terrible thing." Paul was not saying the Law, the first five books of the Bible, "was a bad thing, but the Law by itself, coming to church by itself, reading the Bible by itself, do not do the job".

He referred to the tradition of Rogation Sunday, which this was, of "beating the bounds" of the parish. "This was a day for driving out evil forces from the parish," he said, noting that this practice had been widely abandoned and he had never done it himself. "I think people now believe evil does not exist any more," he said. "But the real issue is that of our own hearts. We know evil in our own hearts."

Then came the invitation to go up. The rector suggested we imagine we were going up to take communion. A respectable number of people made the trek down the aisle. I must confess to remaining in my pew — but then I always do in these circumstances. Not even Billy Graham could get me to do this. Afterwards, over coffee and tea, the congregation could not have been friendlier and they were most proud of their rector.

● *St Helen's Church, Cliffe at Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 7PY (01634 220220)*

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

RECTOR: The Reverend Edward Wright

ARCHITECTURE: Decorated Gothic. ★★★★

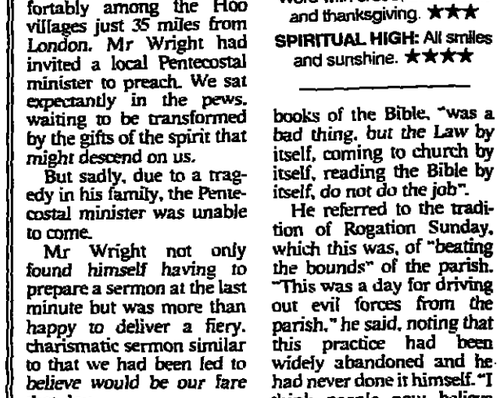
SERMON: On beginning to see the light. ★★★★★

MUSIC: Ancient and modern. ★★★★

LITURGY: Service of the Word with creed, confession and thanksgiving. ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: All smiles and sunshine. ★★★★

RUTH GLEDHILL



Modern music performed in a medieval setting

Parable of Gracie points the way to God's grace

Credo

NIGEL McCULLOCH

The worst thing that can be said to anyone who is feeling depressed and isolated is, "Snap out of it". But all too often, by word or gesture, people do say that.

Equally, Christian and well-meaning attempts to rescue us from the slough of despond can end up leaving us even more alone and burdened with greater guilt — or simply make us angry and tearfully frustrated — when what we most need is to be understood and to be loved.

A further insight into this — though on a quite different level — has been provided for me since the death of my dog, Gracie.

When she was going through a particularly lively phase, our vet suggested that we should get a labrador-whippet puppy to calm her down. So Tessa joined us. Alongside Gracie, she seemed dull and characterless, displaying little outward affection and invariably wearing a hang-dog expression.

But since the death of her elder companion, this seemingly loveless animal has become affectionate, responsive — and clearly very happy. In part, this may be because, as we now realise, she was bullied by Gracie.

More significantly, this little dog must have felt so unloved before. Now, the more love we give her, the more love she gives in return.

That is an experience by no means confined to the animal world. We are loveless ourselves when we are unloving or unloved, or both. Few of us are free from moments of self-doubt and uncertainty and, for some, this can manifest itself in many ways — either through stress-related conditions, such as eating disorders, or through more physical or chemically related illnesses, such as clinical depression. There is torture and despair brought upon by a profound sense of worthlessness.

There is a vicious spiral in all this, for the more we experience these disabling symptoms, the more unattractive and less loveable we feel we become. It is as if the words of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah speak of us: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and we hid as if were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not."

But the same passage goes on to speak of healing. It is a message of profound importance. Christianity, perhaps more than any other faith — being rooted in bruising and brokenness, vulnerability and unworthiness — has the means of restoring to us a wholeness and self-worth we have lost or may feel we never had. For the Christian faith begins where we are: "We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table."

And then can follow the healing, the transforming — not in some slick or even easy way. The path is often hard and full of disappointment: and for most of us it is not a journey of drama. This is no magic formula — and it would be trite and wicked to suggest otherwise. But to begin to grasp the truth — that even when we do not believe in God, He does not stop believing in us and that, most incredibly, He really does love us — is to begin to discover again, or perhaps for the first time, what it means to be valued and loved.

For being loved and realising we really are loved make us, then, the more loving — not just to others but, even more important and much more difficult, to ourselves.

To have reached that point is to know grace indeed — the grace of God.

● *The writer is Bishop of Wakefield.*

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Trailing petunias collection: 18 plants for only £12.98

Today *The Times* offers readers a collection of superb summer flowers. Since their introduction, these trailing petunias have become a favourite. They are prolific growers with tendrils up to 4ft long and continuous flowers from July until October. Well-rooted, they arrive potted and packed in a protective blister. Water a little for the first few days to establish your new plants then a small amount of general purpose fertiliser will make them grow beautifully. Ideal for hanging baskets, balcony troughs and patio tubs, or as a ground cover at the front of your border.

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CHANGING TIMES

Church services for tomorrow

Seventh Sunday of Easter.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Marchant in G; 3.15 Ch E, Let all the world (Vaughan Williams).

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch Euch, Ave verum (Elgar); 3.15 Ch E, Bairstow in D; 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, *O clap your hands* (Gibbons); 3.30 E.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Stanford in B flat, Rev V Cory; 4 Ch E, Murrill in E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: Glorious and powerful God (Wood); 10.30 Euch, St Nicholas mass (Haydn), Canon Galilee; 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, St Stephen's mass (Ireland); 3.30 E, Wood in E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E, Statham in E minor.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; *11 S Euch, Stanford in G, Rev P G C Brett*; 3.15 E, Collegium regale (Howells); 6.30 Compline, Rev R H C Symon.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Canon R Chapman; 3 E, Stanford in A.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, Canon D Knight; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Euch; 6 E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Ireland in C, Rev T R Barker; 11.30 M, Canon M Rees; 3.30 Civic service; 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C; 11 S Euch, Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina); 3.30, Collegium regale (Tavener).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Mass in four parts (Monteverdi) 3.30 Ch E, All people clap your hands (Weelkes).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon Webster; 11.15 S Euch, Short service (Wills); 6 E, Wood in E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne), Canon V Faull; 3 German & Polish Lutheran services; 5 Ch E, Collegium regale (Howells).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Canon G Marshall; 6 Ch E, Wood in E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Edwards in C, Canon D Green; 3.45 E.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Darke in E, Canon N Heavisides; 12.15 HC; 3 E, Stanford in G.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé); 11.30 M; 3.30 E.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Leighton in D, Archdeacon of Loughborough; 4 Ch E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G; 3.30 E, Ireland in F.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Ref G Davies; 3 Ch E; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, *All praise to thee (Stanford)*; 12.15 HC; 3.30 E, Ascendit Deus (Philips); 6.30 E.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9, 10.30 Euch; 6.30 E, God is gone up (Finzi).

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Viri Galilei (Byrd); 6 Ch E, Responses (Tallis).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 6.30 Ch E, Statham in E minor.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Lloyd in E flat, Rev J B Wells; 3.30 E, Dyson in D major; 6.30 EP.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, St Augustine's mass (Clark); 3.30 E, The Salisbury service (Lloyd).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne); 11 Euch, Canon J Hedges; 6E, Stanford in C, Rev Dr F Stewart-Darling.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 12.30 Euch, Canon H Garside; 5.30 E, A: Christ whose glory fills the skies (Armstrong), Rev D Murfet.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Boyce in C; 10.30 S Euch, Leighton in D; 3.15 E, Wood in E flat; 7.30 Concert.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Canon J Davies; 11.30 M, Dr D Downing; 3 Ch E, Howells in G.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa resurrectionis (Hakim); 3 Ch E, Murrill in E minor.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Tallis); 3.15 E, A: If ye love me (Varun).

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C, Canon I Gaskell; 11 Sol Euch, Canon R Capper; 6.30 E.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Ireland in C; 11.30 M, Sumsion in G; 3 E, Murrill in E, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Euch, Christus resurgens (Lassus), Canon A Harvey; 3 E, Stanford in C, Venerable J Smith; 5.45 Organ recital: Katerina Mendlikova; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass; 12 Mass; 3; 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 3.30 E, Wood in D, Canon C Stewart.

YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa laudate Dominum (Lassus); 11.30 M, Humfrey in E minor; 4 E.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, O sing joyfully (Batten), Very Rev Dr W Carr; 11 M, Short service (Gibbons); 12.15 HC; 6.30 EP.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, A: King of glory (Bach), Rev M Ivey; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch Euch; 6 Ch E; 8 Concert.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Canon M Shaw; 11.30 Ch C, Messe Basse (Fauré), Rev R Davey; 3.30 Ch E, Harris in D.

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch, Ireland in C, Rev Dr C E J Fryer; 7 EP.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC; 11.30 MS; 6 Orpheus Choir; 8 ES, Rev D K Robertson.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Rev R Frazer, A: God is gone up (Finzi); 6 ES.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Mass Thora passa (Viadana); 3.30 Ch E, Stewart in C.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 M, Britten in E, Rev R J Riddel; 12.15 Euch; 3.15 Ch E.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 S Euch, Mozart in B flat; 3.15 E, Gloucester service (Howells); 5 Organ recital: Andrew Reid; 6 ES.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa ascendo ad Patrem (Palestrina), Rev I Davies; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Wood in D.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8, 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev J Cook; 6.30 HC, Rev R Bewes.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 Missa cantate Domino (Byrd).

BLOOMSBURY CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, WC2: 11 MS; 6 ES.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Rev B Birchmore; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15, Rev K Owen; 6.30 HC.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM, Mass of St Clare (Refice); 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC, Rev N Lee; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Non vos relinquam orphanos (Byrd); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Songs of praise special service.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP, Rev E Fletcher; 6.30 EP.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege; 7 Jazz vespers, Mr B Fisher.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa ascendens Christus (Victoria); 6.30 E, Great service (Parry).

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Stanford in A, Ascendit Deus (Philips), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Rawsthorne, God is gone up (Finzi), Guild Chaplain W Boulton.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch M, *Stanford in C, Rev D Mackenzie.*

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Missa salve internerata (Tallis), Coelos ascendit (Stanford).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Haydn in F.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 Said Euch.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens: 10.30 S Euch, Missa ascendo ad Patrem (Palestrina), Rev A Meldrum; 6 E, Fauxbourdons (Stanford).

ST JAMES'S, W1: 9.15 HC; 11 S Euch; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 MS, Nun danket (Karg Elert), Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ascendit Deus (Philips), Rev C Kevill-Davies; 6.30 E, God is gone up (Finzi).

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Collegium regale (Howells).

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa papae Marcelli (Palestrina).

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev M Johnson; 11.30 Visitors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES, Rev D Monteith.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev V Stock; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E, Rev F Gelli.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Missa ascendens Christus (Victoria), Father S Young; 6 Sol E & B.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa ascendens Christus (Victoria).

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Euch, Missa sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Rev W Gulliford.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa ascendens Christus (Victoria), Fr D B Tillyer.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev P R C Abrams; 11 M, Collegium regale (Howells), Venerable R Turner.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Ascendit Deus (Philips), Rt Rev J S Bailey.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Britten in C; 3.30 E, Purcell in G minor.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch, Schubert in G.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, A: The Lord is King (Boyce), Very Rev Father S Hieromonk; 12.30 HC.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Viri Galilei (Plainsong), Britten in E, The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Behold it is Christ (Hooper), Band of the Life Guards, Rev L H Bryan; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Rev R Nurton.

● *Compiled by Deborah King*

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For this week's challenge, **David Bowker** searches for one of his books, only to uncover a conspiracy to make him look silly

Case of the publisher's plot

Recently, while having lunch with another writer, I set him the following puzzler: "It's about three in the afternoon. You're walking down the Strand, laughing and crying hysterically. You wonder if your career will ever take off or whether you should have taken your Dad's advice and got a proper job. Where have you just been?"

Quick as a flash, he replied: "I've just had lunch with my publisher."

The man knew what he was talking about. For the past three years our novels have been published by the same company. And when I say "published", I actually mean stored in a warehouse somewhere, because until now, we've both had a hard time finding our books in any shops. Although I once found one of mine in a skip.

I can't name this other writer, because he's still published by the same company. And I can't name my publishers, because it's so long since I've heard from them that I've forgotten who they are.

My second crime novel, *The Butcher of Glastonbury*, has just come out in paperback. At least I think it has. I'm only guessing. No one's done anything reckless like ringing me up or anything.

Last week I received a box of ten complimentary copies, and a letter congratulating me on having my book *stored in a warehouse*.

There was no launch party, or if there was, I wasn't invited. The publicity campaign for my new book has been equally zealous: no posters, no ads, no signings and no press or TV coverage. It must have cost a fortune.

So on Monday, I embarked on my bravest challenge yet: a week trying to find my book on sale in a bookshop. I started in Bedford. Did Dillons have a copy? Did they hell. But the woman at the desk offered to order one for me. I explained that I already had ten copies at home, and asked the woman if she wanted to order one from me. She politely declined.

Then I went to London and visited Dillons on Oxford Street. Imagine my disappointment when I found not one, but six copies of *The Butcher of Glastonbury*. With mounting dismay, I went to Foyles, Waterstones, Books etc. My new book was everywhere. Some of these stores had my other two novels as well (the truly original *Death Prayer* and the hilarious *Secret Sexist*). Friends who lived in other parts of the country told me the same incredible story: *The Butcher of Glastonbury* is available from all good booksellers all over Britain.

SEVEN LONG DAYS



I was devastated. When my first book came out, I never found it in a single bookshop. Now, when I'm trying to write an article about not finding my book, my publishers suddenly decide to distribute it. Once again, they've managed to make a complete fool out of me.

I began to suspect the publishers of placing my book in bookshops out of deliberate spite, then removing every single copy as soon as I'd gone home. But when I returned to London the next day, my book was still very much in evidence.

It occurred to me that if my novels were on sale, someone somewhere might actually buy one. I decided to launch a publicity campaign of my own. On Wednesday, I interviewed myself for *The Times*. "David, what can you tell me about your latest novel?" "Well, David, it makes all other crime novels look as dull as crime novels. It's an astonishing achievement." "I agree, David. You're as gifted as you are handsome." "How very perceptive, David."

On Thursday I went on a book-signing tour of London. I was afraid to tell anyone in the bookshops what I was doing in case they said: "Aha! So you're the man who's never sold a single book, are you?" So I only signed my books when the staff were looking the other way. When I ran out of books, I started signing books by other people.

If you ever open a Nick Hornby novel and read the message: "Best wishes from David Bowker", you'll know why.

● *David Bowker's novel, The Butcher of Glastonbury is published by Vista, price £5.99.*



WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

MAY 29-31

Elgar birthday weekend. In Herefordshire with Acorn Activities (01432-830083). Price £175 inclusive.

Designing a garden for wildlife. At the Field Studies Council Juniper Hall Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306-883849). Price £102 residential, £78 non-residential.

An invitation to croquet; Britain's Romantic Age (1780-1830); Pictures from fabric, photographing people in monochrome. All at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460-52427). Prices from £115 residential, £85 non-residential.

Dinghy Sailing Courses. All you need to know to start on the water. *With Sunsail (01705-222224) at centres in England and Scotland. Two days from £80.*

The Gallipoli campaign of 1915 revisited; How to write and illustrate picture books for children; Drawing for the terrified; Tasting tea and coffee; Improving your memory. Just some of the courses available at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494-862904). *Price £159 residential, £69 non-residential.*

Spring birds; Scottish mammals; Introducing mosses. At the Scottish Field Studies Association Kindrogan Centre, Pitlochry (01250-881286). Price from £89-91 inclusive.

A pianist's journey through the 19th-century; Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782-372105). Price £70 residential.

Yoga weekend for everybody. At Aura-Soma, Tetford, Lincs. A full yoga programme plus workshops. Price from £100, inclusive. With the Ruth White Yoga Centre (0181-644 0309).

Welsh Border cycle tours. Follow the river Teme to its source or trace the route of Offa's Dyke. With Wheely Wonderful Cycling, Elton, Ludlow, Shropshire (01568-770755). Price for three days, including accommodation, cycles, route maps and back-up service £127 for adults, £96 for children.

A weekend piano workshop. For various levels of ability, with the Jackdaws Educational Trust, Great Elm Frome, Somerset (01373 812383). Price £110 including full-board accommodation and tuition.

Better swimming for those who can swim up to 20 metres and want to improve; Handspinning — fun with fibres; Flower painting in watercolours; Computers, using MS Excel level 1. All at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243-670392). Price £149 residential, £103 non-residential.

The formation of Christendom. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460-55866). £105-115 residential, £79-90 non-residential.

Spring flowers in the Lake District. At the Blencathra Field Studies Centre, Keswick, Cumbria (017687 79601). Price £114-124 residential, £90-100 non-residential.

Container gardening; Walking in the Constable country; Painting plants. All at Flatford Mill Field Study Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206-298283). £105 residential, £82 non-residential.

Microlighting. Courses in microlighting flying, up to solo flight standard. With Airsports (01904-862904), Rufforth, North Yorkshire. Four-day course £495.

An introduction to jazz, poetry and prose of the 1930s; Gardens in watercolour; Meditation. A selection of the courses at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494-890296). Price £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Getting to know your personal computer; Old English cottages. At Pendrell Hall College of Adult Education, Codsall Wood, Wolverhampton (01902-434112). Price £86 residential, £60 non-residential.

Natural history photography. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782-372105). *Price £70 inclusive.*

Managing stress; Happy-go-lucky English. Both at Wensum Lodge, King Street, Norwich (01603-666021). Price £84 inclusive.

TONY STONE



Time to taste tea at Missenden Abbey in Buckinghamshire

Parachuting instruction. With the Wild Geese Sky Diving Centre, Garvagh, Co. Londonderry (012665 58609). One-day courses leading to a static line descent. £120. Tandem sky diving and free fall descents available.

Basic blacksmithing; Glass engraving; Painting miniatures and silhouettes; Caring for furniture. All at West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243-811301). Price £150 residential.

Shakespeare and Rome; Extinction and crisis in the history of life. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954-210636). Price £120 inclusive.

Escorted walking breaks in the Peak District. From the YHA Centre, Edale. Prices from £79 (full information, 01727-855215).

Wildlife of woodlands and wetlands; Anthony Trollope, character and morality, in *Phineas Finn* and *The Eustace Diamonds*. At the Wensfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992-813027). Price £85 inclusive.

Working conservation weekends. With the National Trust Working Holidays (01285-644727) at 70 locations in all parts of Britain, protecting and restoring the environment. Weekend rates from £39, including meals and accommodation.

Plantlife weekend. For all those with an interest in botanical conservation. With *Plantlife at the Kindrogan Field Centre, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, Scotland (0171-938 9111). Price £99 inclusive.*

JUNE 12-14

Learn gliding. With the Shenington Gliding Club, Sherington, Banbury, Oxon (01295-680008). *Intensive training from beginners to advanced, eight flights a day, from £60 per day, including self-catering accommodation.*

Music appreciation; Fine art to fine felt. Both at the Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancs (01772-784661). Price £100 residential, £75 non-residential.



An invitation to play croquet at Dillington House in Somerset

Windsurfing, canoeing, kayaking, dinghy sailing, power boating. All at the Plas Menai National Watersports Centre, Caernarfon, Gwynedd (01248-670964). Price for *two days, inclusive of full-board, equipment and tuition from £104.*

Pen and wash drawing; Picture framing. Two arts-based courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset *(01460 55866). Price £115* residential, £79 non-residential.

Pony trekking. In the Black Mountains of South Wales, with Grange Trekking of Capel-y-ffin, Abergavenny on well-trained ponies (01873-890215). Weekend rates from £120 including full board.

Upstairs, downstairs, the social history of the English country house; Mozart in Prague; Summer in mixed media. All at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798-865306). *Prices from £114* residential, £90 non-residential

Keep fit for summer — top to toe summer hair and beauty. Lancashire College, Chorley, Lancs (01257-260909). Price £96 inclusive.

Englishmen discover the world, 1500-1700. At the Maryland College, Woburn, Beds (01525-292901). Price £99 inclusive.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

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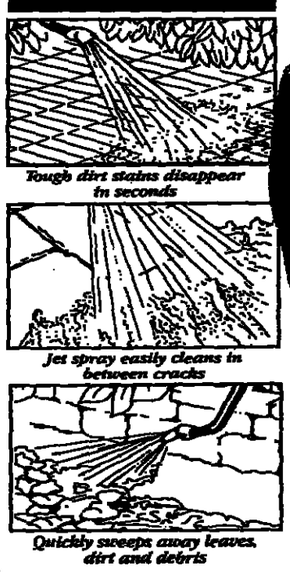
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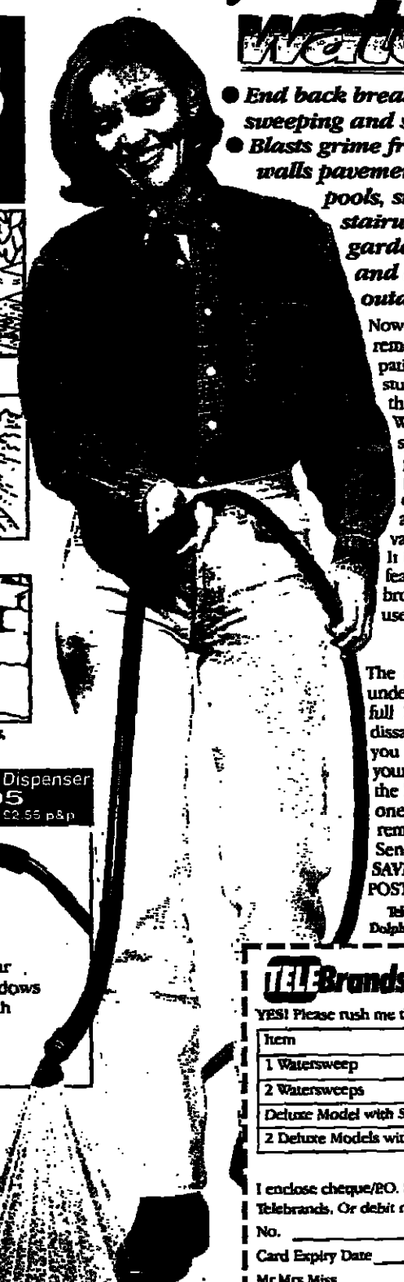
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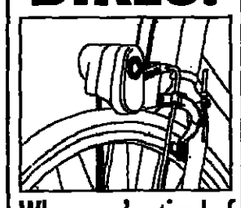
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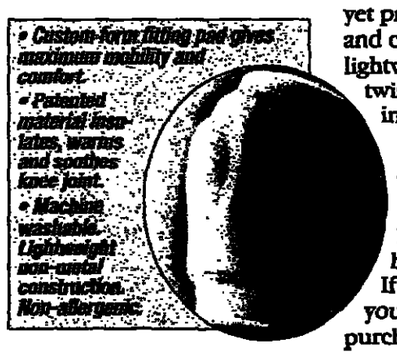


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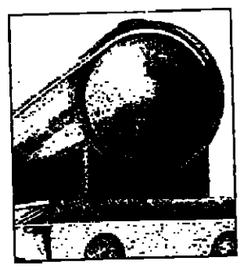
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An icy land with a warm heart

PETER JORDAN/NETWORK



Icelanders are courteous and helpful, to the point of serving visitors relaxing in the warm waters of the Blue Lagoon in Grindavik, near Reykjavik. A glass of Icelandic brandy is known as Black Death

Iceland is a feast for carnivores and geologists, writes Stephen McClarence

ICELAND is a carnival of carnivores. If it walks, flies, swims or putrefies, they eat it. Upmarket restaurants serve grilled guillemot and sautéed porpoise. Traditional dishes include pickled whale blubber and seal flippers. Banquets might feature sliced lambs' testicles, sheep brain stew and putrefied shark meat — washed down with Icelandic brandy (known as Black Death).

"Any poached puffin?" I ask a waiter.

"Puffin is generally served broiled," he says, deadpan.

The menu offers plenty of fish. But fish can get monotonous. In the 1970s, Icelandic factory workers went on strike because they resented having to eat salmon every day.

I order chick pea curry. Surprisingly, it comes without chicks.

The national diet — particularly shark's meat, buried for up to six months — sometimes took 18th and 19th-century visitors by surprise.

"For dessert, some flesh of whale and shark was served," wrote Uno von Troil, translator on a 1772 British expedition. "This looks very much like rusty bacon, and had so disagreeable a taste that the small quantity we took of it drove us from the table long before our intention."

Pioneer tourists like von Troil often remarked on the warmth of the Icelanders' welcome: their gratitude that travellers had made the considerable effort to come to see them in their remoteness.

The trip now takes less effort. Iceland is only two or three hours' flight from Britain. But the welcome is still warm.

Icelanders are courteous and helpful. Cars pull up 50 yards away to let you cross the road. A woman at a Reykjavik bus stop is torn with angst when she can't find the English words to direct me to the National Museum. Many Icelanders, particularly in tourism, speak more elegant English than many Britons.

Tourism traditionally revolves around the country's outdoor heritage. Raft a river, watch a whale, bathe in a lagoon, study a volcanic crater, feel humbled by Natural Phenomena on the edge of the habitable world.

Much of the island is geology masquerading as landscape, a must for lovers of black and barren lava-strewn wilderness.

The mandatory Golden Circle coach tour from Reykjavik shows off the natural splendours that have lured the intrepid since the days when gentleman-adventurers wore plus-fours and deerstalkers.

Logically, the geysers are at Geysir, 50 miles from Reykjavik. Every three minutes, Strokkur, the most excitable of them, erupts in a 200ft plume of sulphurous boiling water. For the tourists clustered round with their cameras, it is all over in a second. You need a fast finger on the shutter.

Rule One of the International Travel Industry Code operates here. It states: "All tourist coaches should arrive at sites simultaneously to ensure maximum congestion."

Rule Two states: "Coaches should ideally travel in convoy" — which is how, as the drizzle on the windows obscures the dense grey clouds on the mountains, five coaches arrive together at Gullfoss waterfall, a stunning turmoil of white spray, thunderous water and the occasional rainbow.

Iceland is hugely elemental. In winter — with no daylight to speak of — it can be gale-lashed, rain-drenched, storm-tossed, sleet-splattered, snow-pelted and generally weather-beaten. In summer (May to September), the all-day sunlight is often dazzling.

This is probably the best time to visit Reykjavik — the world's most northerly capital city, home to two-thirds of Iceland's 260,000 people.

In city break brochures, it is listed alongside Paris, Rome, Vienna, Prague, Barcelona and Venice.

This sets up the expectation that Reykjavik will be cosmopolitan, sophisticated, full of cultural bustle.

A more accurate analogy would be a sort of maritime Peterborough, crossed with the frontier feel of sober Scottish islands. Glitzy excitement is not its strong point.

It's a useful base for touring Iceland's interior, but its own attractions can be covered in a day — and a night. The club scene (big on Seventies retro) carries on until 3am, when the shutters clatter down and everyone springs for a taxi.

Beer-drinking — except for watery low-alcohol brews — became legal only in 1989. To judge by the late-night bawlings of *My Way* that echo round the streets (in immaculate English), they are rapidly making up for lost time.

The city, dwarfed by mountains, is best seen from Hallgrimskirkja, the sort of modern church which nature would build if she employed architects. It looks like a stalagmite surrounded by banks of basalt columns, a Fingal's Cave of Christianity. It's concrete-stark, chaste and has no unnecessary clutter like stained-glass windows, so the bright-white light floods in.

From its tower, the city sprawls, a jumble of weatherboard and corrugated iron houses, brightly coloured like Dolly Mixtures. The sky and the sea stretch emptily north and west.

Three streets away, the National Museum is a model of its kind, giving context to even the briefest stay. The star exhibit is a 12th-century door carved with rugby scrums of dragons biting each others' tails. Or possibly their own.

Icelandic carvings, like Icelandic society, mix myth and religion, runes and crucifixes, angels and gryphons, Viking and Christian.

Pouting cherubs nestle in their own wings around Lutheran pulpits; Victorian wedding groups frown in unison at the camera, and the Icelander's essentially practical outlook is summed up by cowsheds that used to double as living quarters. The body heat of the cows stalled on the ground floor rose to warm the bedrooms directly above.

Today, Reykjavik has swift, efficient buses, amazingly clean public loos, theatres staging Ayckbourn and *Fiddler on the Roof*, and many shops. Visitors usually gravitate to the main shopping street, handily signposted: The Main Shopping Street.

Body Shop and Monsoon are here, arts and crafts centres and souvenir shops with Spice Girls T-shirts. Hefty men in waterproofs stand on street corners selling dried fish (like window leathers). The flearmarket has second hand bookstalls with that worthy successor to Njal's and Egil's Sagas, Saga Forsytanna *(The Forsyth Saga)*.

The city's highlight is its café bars and coffee shops, where men with serious square beards greet each other in French and settle down to read *Newsweek*. A delegation of Norwegian philosophers discuss The Meaning of Life in Iceland over waffles.

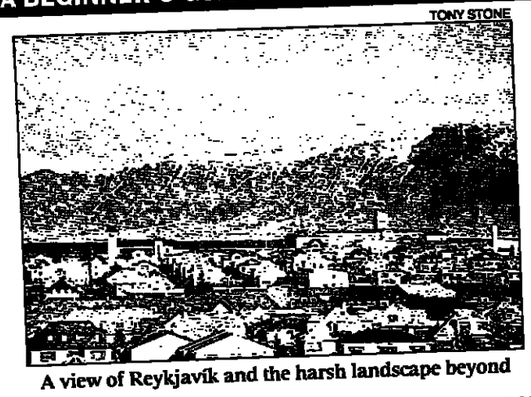
The drawback is the cost. Iceland is punishingly expensive to anyone living outside London. A three-hour guided tour of "lavas, craters and colourful volcanic ejecta" costs £23. A day's glacier tour costs £96. A slice of vegetarian quiche in a middle-market restaurant is £12; roast lamb, £20; a pint of beer, £5.

But I splurge at Austur India Fjelagid, which claims to be Europe's most northerly Indian restaurant. Blond Icelandic waiters glide round in Nehru jackets. In the gents loo is a portrait of "Queen Victoria the Good", mildewed by the monsoons of the Raj.

For one veggie course, coffee and a half of lager (mild, fruity and drunk as carefully as whisky), the bill is £20. And that's without puffin pilau.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ICELAND FACT FILE

TONY STONE



A view of Reykjavik and the harsh landscape beyond

■ **Getting there:** Stephen McClarence travelled with Bridge Travel (01992 456171). Between May 15 and September 15, Reykjavik breaks start at £413 for two nights' B&B in a three-star hotel, including taxes, transfers and flights from Glasgow (£454 from Heathrow). At other times prices start at £299 (Glasgow) or £340 (Heathrow). Icelandair (0171-388 5599) flies daily to Reykjavik from Heathrow and Glasgow. Return prices start at £260 (Heathrow) or £210 (Glasgow). After August: £240 (Heathrow) or £190 (Glasgow). Airport taxes (£25) not included.

■ **Accommodation:** Reykjavik's central Hótel City (00 354 511 1155) charges £44 (single), £64 (double).

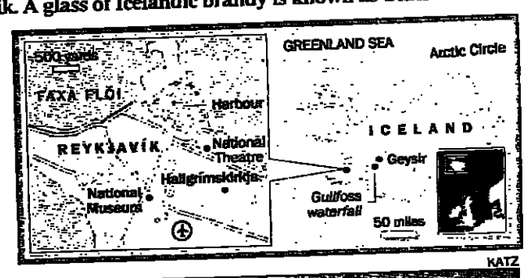
■ **Getting around:** The eight-hour Golden Circle tour costs £45, bookable through Bridge Travel.

■ **Going out:** In Reykjavik, Café Sólon Islandus (551 2666) has an enterprising menu and informally arty atmosphere, with weekend jazz. Good, if pricey, Indian food at the stylish Austur India Fjelagid (552 1630) and excellent veggie value at Á Naestu Grösum (552 8490). Superb coffee and cakes at Mokka Kaffi (552 1174).

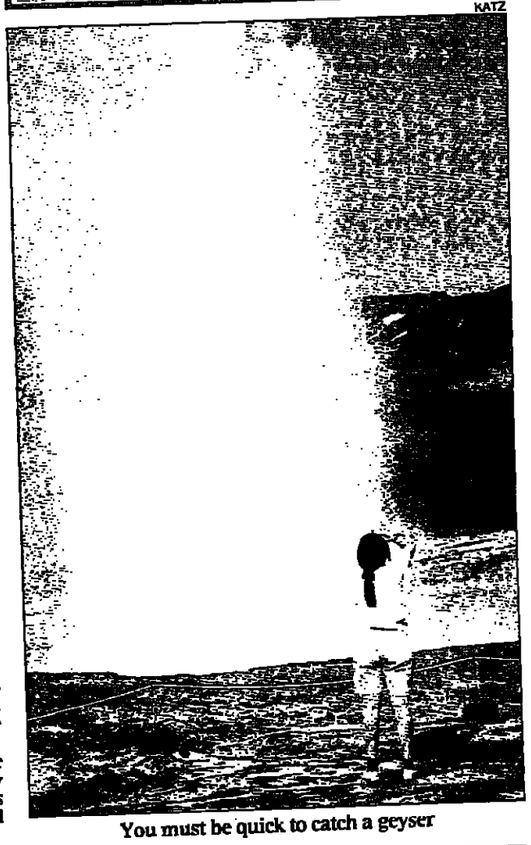
■ **When to go:** Best time to visit Reykjavik is May-September. Temperatures reach 18C in July. January average is 0C.

■ **Further information:** Iceland Tourist Information Centre (0171-388 5599). Brochure Line (0181-255 7373).

■ **Reading:** Iceland, Greenland & the Faroe Islands *(Lonely Planet*, £12.99) is useful and thorough. Iceland & Greenland Visitor's Guide (*Country Traveller*, £10.99).



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Fun on the funiculars

Lisbon is a great place to take the children, says **Anne Ashworth**

Strolling around Lisbon *last month, two matters* preyed on my mind: why were the local children so well behaved and how did they contrive to look so clean?

The second puzzle will be solved when I discover the names of the wonder detergents that are evidently supplied only to the Portuguese market. The answer to the first emerged by lunchtime on the first day when George, my seven-year-old son, declared he was having fun.

Like the contented little Lisboetas, George was enjoying the low-priced entertainments that are part of everyday Lisbon life: funiculars, trams, a curious lift and cafés serving hot chocolate and cake. It all provided him with more than adequate compensation for the tiresome preoccupation of his parents with ecclesiastical architecture and shoe shops.

Our tour of Lisbon began in the Rua de Santa Justa in the Baixa district, part of the lower town. Here you find the decorated grey tower of the Elevador de Santa Justa, a lift designed by a disciple of Alexandre Gustave Eiffel.

The aim of the 100ft journey (56p for adults and 23p for children *under ten*) on the brass and mahogany splendour of the Elevador, is to enjoy the views over the River Tagus and the city from the café at the top. The mechanically *minded can admire the* impressive British-made Victorian workings, while the *rest can experience pleasur*able vertigo on the spiral staircases that lead from the *lower viewing level to the* refreshments above.

Those who prefer shoes to *heights can browse below in* shops on Rua Augusta, observing that no Portuguese can purchase even a pair of slippers without lengthy deliberations and accompanied by at least two relations (I bought a great pair of high heels for about £30).

Another cheap and vertiginous treat (£1.60 for two adults and a child) is a five-minute walk away, off the Praça dos *Restauradores, where a little* yellow funicular, the Elevador da Glória, takes you up the steep hill to the Bairro Alto. *In* this 16th-century district, children can be seen helping out in the small workshops on the ground floor of houses.

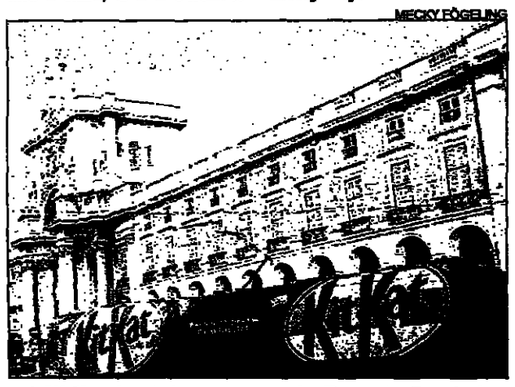
But our attention was drawn from these scenes of filial piety by the rumbling trams. We decided to give one a go: an all-day ticket costs £1.50. Here the choice lies between trams ancient and modern. The first type (numbers 12 and 28) take you round the slightly louche but lively Alfama district, home to the cathedral and good-value restaurants.

The journey is jerky, with the tram almost constantly pulling up for vehicles parked on the lines. Sadly for children longing for an adult to make a scene, the tram drivers are admirably restrained in their comments to other road users.

By contrast to this *fin de siècle* mode of transport, the contemporary Lisbon tram allows you to slide along inside a Coca-Cola bottle or a KitKat. They are liveried in international brands, with *windows from which you* can gaze out but which nobody can see into; allowing children to pull faces at shoppers. The number 15 route takes you through the riverside Belém quarter, past the Torre and the Jerónimos monastery.

Should your children become tram enthusiasts, they can indulge this passion as *part of a trip to Sintra (see right).* A tram line running from the seaside resort of *Praia das Maçãs, near* Colares, which closed more than 20 years ago, has been *restored. At present, it runs to* within a mile of Sintra but the operators aim to reopen the rest of the line. The single fare is £1.66, a 45-minute ride which buys several hours of parental swooning over Sintra's palaces and winding mossy ways.

MECKY FÖGELING



A KitKat-liveried tram passes the Praça do Comércio

PICTURES



The medieval town of Sintra has worked hard to keep traffic off its streets and maintain its historic buildings. It also makes the perfect base for trips to Lisbon

Always a surprise in Sintra

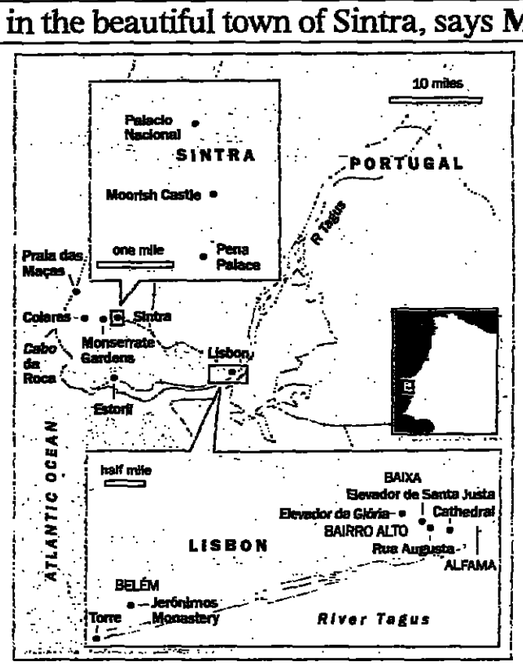
If you are heading to Lisbon for Expo 98, avoid the crowds by staying nearby in the beautiful town of Sintra, says **Michael Church**

There's always a downside when cities host events such as Expos or Olympics, and there will be no exception for Expo 98, which opened in Lisbon yesterday. As capitals go, Lisbon is small, and over the four months of Expo 98 its streets are likely to be gridlocked and its hotels packed. In preparation for the rush, temporary floating hotels have been moored in the harbour. So to avoid the crowds, I suggest you stay outside the city, near a railway line connected to the event as roads will be jammed.

And I would say that the charming medieval town of Sintra, 20 miles north-west of *Lisbon, is an excellent base.* Over the past few years, Sintra has worked hard to keep modernity at bay. It was recognised as a World Heritage Site by Unesco three years ago and has since launched a ferocious campaign to keep traffic off its cobbled streets. Buses which used to clog the city now have to dump their human cargo and run, and car parking for everyone except the locals may soon be banned. "We have found the perfect solution," said Mario Machado, who runs Sintra's tourist office, pointing to the road which snakes around the hill into the centre. "That will be for pedestrians, *and underneath will be* a long, curving car park. The cars will be invisible." His campaign to turn the clock back won't stop there: the next edict, he says, will outlaw television aerials. "We have a duty to our history. We don't want mass tourism."

And there's no shortage of history to be dutiful towards. Sintra was where Lord Byron famously sought refuge from the clamour of Lisbon, and where, inspired by "beauties of every description, natural and artificial", he penned his great poem *Childe Harold*. It was also once home to the enfant-terrible novelist William Beckford, drummed out of England in 1786 after a homosexual scandal.

In Sintra today you can still buy copies of the engravings made two centuries ago by the English artist William Burnett. Many are of the town's old buildings silhouetted against a backdrop of sunshine, mists and clouds. One of the biggest draws of Sintra, hammocked high among thickly-wooded hills, is its microclimate: moist and misty when Lisbon bakes dry — a welcome respite from the rigours of the plain. In the heat of summer, Sintra becomes for Lisboans what Simla was for the British Raj.



What strikes you immediately is how little the place depicted by Burnett has changed. There on the hills are the same convents and castles poking through the trees, while down in the city centre the architecture is as he would have found it.

The prevailing style is Portugal's lovely variant on Regency: no war has ravaged it, so developers have rarely had a look-in. The only building glaringly out of sync (run up in the pre-conservation 1970s) is the Tivoli hotel by the castle. But if you actually stay there — it's the second best hotel in town — you don't have to look at it.

For several centuries the Moors were in control of Sintra, and their influence is to be found all over: in the tiled fountains by the roadside, in the Moorish Castle overlooking the city, and in the Palácio Nacional at its heart. This eccentric palace, with its cone-shaped chimneys, reflects the comings and goings of a succession of conquerors. It also bears the imprint of a celebrated scandal in the form of the worn floor where disabled *King Alfonso VI, who* was effectively imprisoned for a decade by his brother Pedro II, shuffled obsessively to and fro in the 1670s and 1680s.

A short walk along a maze-like path leads to the Pena Palace, maintained as it was when Portugal's last royals did an overnight flit in 1910: everything is there as they left it. No one could call this mock-Gothic edifice beautiful, but it has the preposterous grandeur of mad King Ludwig's palace in Bavaria, and comes from the same architectural stable. *Where else would you find a* sundial in the form of a miniature cannon, timed to *fire at noon?*

Several miles further on you come to the Cork Convent where even in high summer the sun rarely penetrates the mist. "It's closed for renovation," said a grim-looking attendant. "It will open next year." How could a cluster of rocks be closed and being "renovated"? Feigning incomprehension, I went to have a look anyway. The Capuchin friars who lived in these tiny cells must have been a stunted lot, but with a nice sense of theatre: the stone crosses on their mossy rocks would make a fine stage set for *Giselle*.

About three miles west of Sintra, you find the Monserrate Gardens, which is more like a set for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Once a simple hermitage, this has been transformed by a series of Britons (starting with Beckford) into a neo-Gothic folly in rolling parkland studded with *exotic plants*.

One of Sintra's latest innovations is a revamp of the tram *system which a century ago* led from the city centre to the sea and beaches galore: some *for serious surfers (beware the* lethal undertow), others for fishermen (Azenhas do Mar), and others for family bucket-and-spaders (particularly good: Praia das Maçãs).

With its locked gates and secret pathways, Sintra has always seemed full of surprises, but this year it's brought several more out of the hat. A toy museum has recently opened by the main square; the little tin Hitlers and Goerings reflect Portugal's close German links. The Berardo Museum has been *converted from a 1920s casino* and houses one of the most interesting modern art collections *in the world, including* contributions from Bridget Riley, Roy Lichtenstein, Carl (Tate bricks) Andre and Cindy Sherman. The current temporary exhibition is of Denise Colomb's celebrated photographs of Parisian artists in the 1950s.

And what I consider to be the most beautiful hotel in Portugal, the Seteais, built as a consular mansion in 1802, is now perfectly restored.

And this summer — coinciding with Expo 98 — Sintra is holding its music festival *(see fact file)*. The concerts are given in palaces and gardens; the performers — mostly Russian — are top-flight. After a walk in the hills, spend the evening with Vladimir Ashkenazy at the Palacio Queluz, then swoop back into town for *fado* — Lisbon's answer to the blues — at the zinc and mahogany Café de Paris.

"Broken hearts. Robbery. Murder. (And you were looking forward to a quiet bank holiday?)"

THE AFTERNOON PLAY, "The Greengage Summer". Rumer Godden's coming-of-age tale set in France before World War II. Joss falls for the charming Eliot but he ends up stealing more than her heart. Bank holiday Monday afternoon, 2.15 – 3.45.

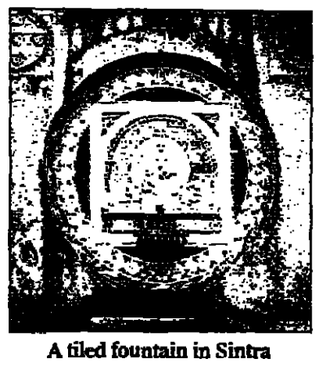
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YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

PORTUGAL FACT FILE

■ Michael Church flew with TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) which offers flights from Heathrow to Lisbon from £156 return, including three days free car hire, until October 31.

■ Getting there: Mundi Color (0171-828 6021) can tailor-make trips with accommodation in Sintra. Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333) has packages that include day trips to Sintra. BA Holidays (01293 723131) has three-nights' B&B at a five-star hotel in Sintra from £399 in July; includes flights from Heathrow and car hire. Travelscene (0181-427 4445) offers a four-night package for £395 until mid-July, which includes flights from Gatwick and two days car hire.

■ Where to stay: Tivoli Sintra Hotel (00 351 1 923 3505), double room from £80 *a night (breakfast* included). The Hotel Palacio Seteais (1 923 3200) has a night's B&B in a double room from £158. Portuguese and Spanish Chapters (0171-722 0722) has cottages sleeping two in Sintra from £770 per week, with breakfast.



A tiled fountain in Sintra

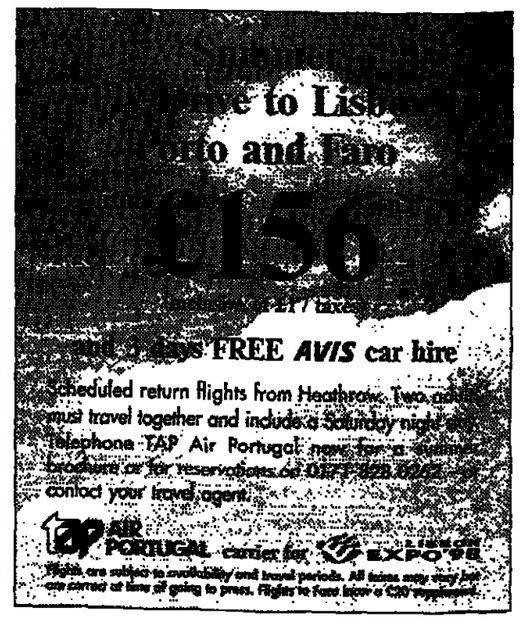
■ Places to visit: Toy Museum (1 924 2171), open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-6pm. Berardo Museum (1 924 8170), open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am-6pm and Tuesday 2pm-6pm. Monserrate Gardens, open daily, 10am-6pm. Pena Palace, open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-1pm and 2pm-6.30pm.

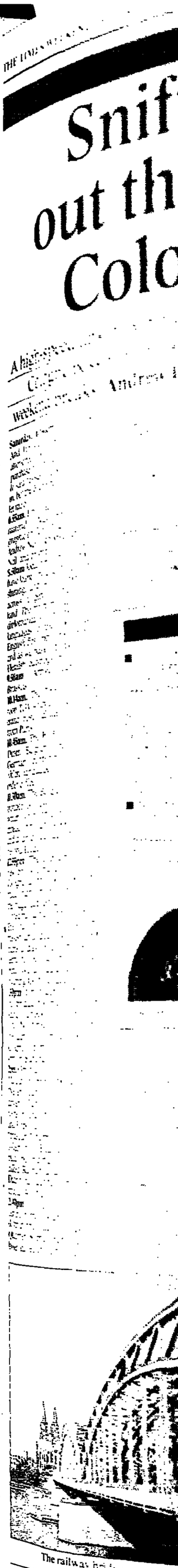
■ Summer festival: From June 12-July 19.

■ Further information: Contact the Sintra tourist office (1 923 1157); or the Portuguese National Tourist Office, 22-25a Sackville Street, London W1X 1DE (0171-494 1441).

■ Expo 98 runs from May 22 until September 30. Gates open daily at 10am. The permanent attractions close at 8pm; the nightlife goes on until 3am. Tickets prices are £15 for one day; £26.50 for three days. Night entrance, £6. Website: *http://www.expo98.pt*

■ Reading: *Lisbon* (Lonely Planet, £8.99), updated this year. *The Portuguese* — Marion Kaplan (Penguin, £8.99).





The railway

A Journ

A Cruise thro

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ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1: ... Heath...

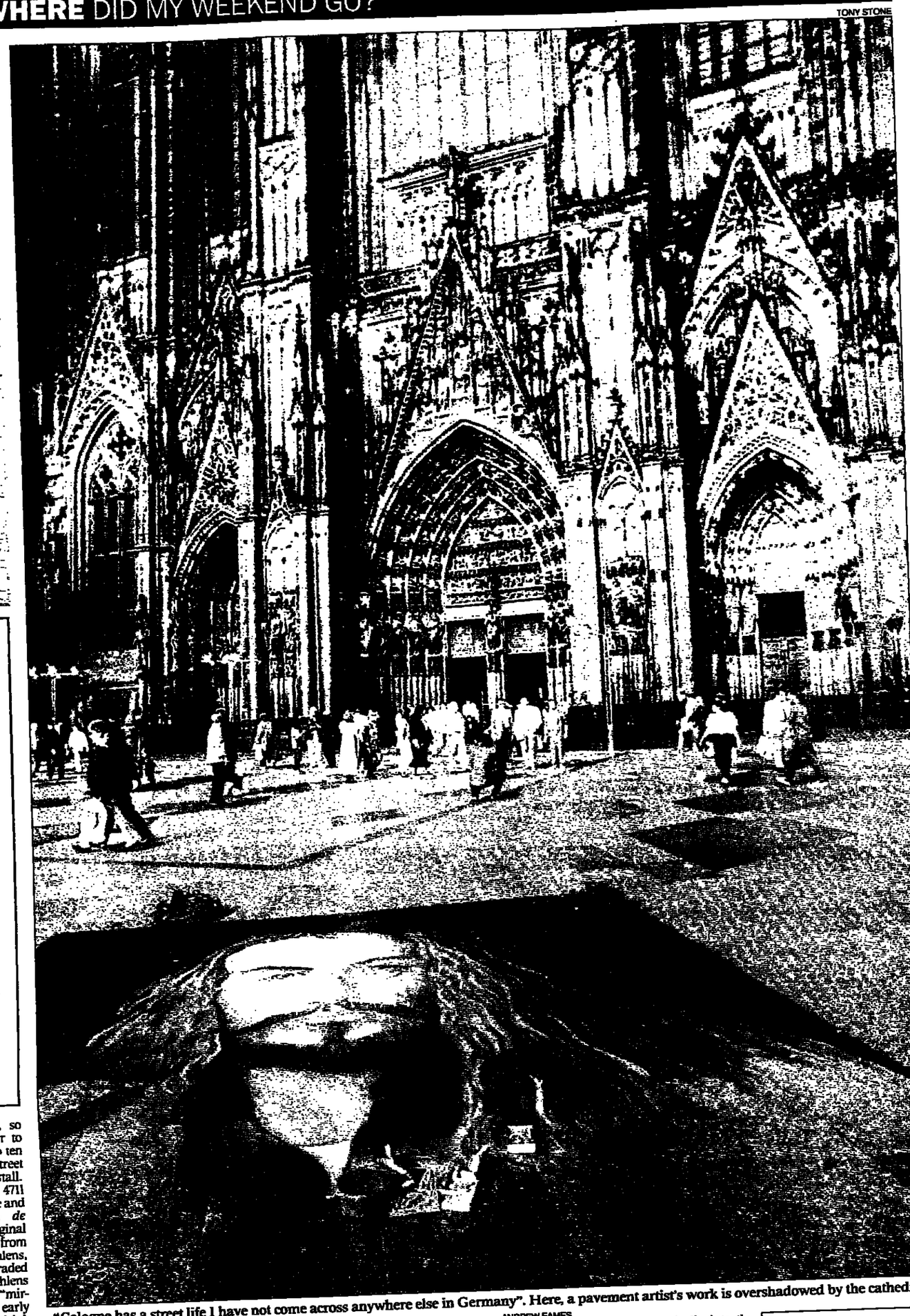
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WHERE DID MY WEEKEND GO?

Sniffing out the real Cologne

A high-speed link now makes a rail-based weekend in Cologne possible. In the first of a new series of weekend breaks, Andrew Eames heads for Germany

TONY STONE



Saturday. 6.14am. Waterloo. And I'm suffering from the after-effects of a recent rash purchase in Finnish duty free. It said "closed" above check-in, but the Eurostar staff have let me on.

6.55am. I pull out my reading material: *National Geographic* or *Full Disclosure* by Andrew Neil. I choose Andrew Neil, and promptly fall asleep.

8.50am local time. The clocks have leapt forward. The sun is shining, and we're speeding across a gently undulating land. The train manager has diplomatically shuffled his languages: in the UK it was English first, now it's French, and as we pass into Belgium, Flemish leapfrogs them all.

9.56am. Arrive early in Brussels.

10.14am. The Thalys, a maroon TGV with a long, aristocratic nose, glides in early from Paris.

10.45am. The buffet car takes Dutch, Belgian, French and German currency, but in which language should you order coffee?

11.30am. The Belgian-German frontier is new to me, so I watch with interest as we thread through wooded hills and dilapidated factory towns beyond Liège.

12.55pm. The excitement of a new city. We have arrived in Cologne at the best possible place, right in the shadow of the huge cathedral, the most visited building in the country. The station is the nation's busiest and deals with 1,300 trains a day. Half the world seems to be out in the sunshine. We all gaze up at the towering Gothic facade.

1.30pm. I nip across the railway bridge footpath over the Rhine to check in at the Hyatt hotel. No time to savour the view across the river, because Cologne starts shutting at 4pm on Saturdays.

2pm. Grab a cab to the Beatles Museum in Heinsbergstrasse. "Never heard of it," says the driver. Ten minutes later we're in the student quarter, and I spot a Union Jack. The "museum" turns out to be a collection of Beatles memorabilia belonging to a chap called Rainer and his friend. Didn't they get fed up with the music? A little.

2.40pm. I walk back to the centre from this arty southern district they call the Belgian Quarter. Somewhere here is a hotel called the Chelsea which has a tradition of accepting quality paintings in payment for rooms — so no danger of me getting a free room there.

2.45pm. In Neumarkt I encounter a group of Turks protesting about human rights transgressions in their homeland. On the fringes there are also punks, anarchists and lesbians, all making their own points.

3.10pm. Schildergasse is packed with shoppers. Central Cologne was flattened in World War II, so this downtown area has little architectural delicacy, but as it was rebuilt the traffic was diverted around or underground, so the streets are given over to people. You can barely go ten metres without seeing a street performer or a jewellery stall.

3.30pm. I stop briefly at 4711 Glockengasse — the home and namesake of the *eau de Cologne*. 4711. The original recipe was a wedding gift from a monk to Wilhelm Muehlens, a young merchant who traded from this address: Muehlens saw the potential of this "miracle water", and his early customers even used to drink it. The shop has an exhibition, which includes imitation fragrances collected from around the world, and a waterfall of *cologne* to dabble your fingers in. The real *eau de Cologne* is still made in the city to the original (secret) recipe.

4pm. Shops begin to close.

4.15pm. I wanted to climb the 509 steps to the top of the cathedral, but the tower has closed. I convene for a quick planning meeting with my brochures instead.

4.45pm. I've established that the Schokoladenmuseum (chocolate museum) is open until 7pm so I can afford to be diverted. The Rheingarten is full of jugglers and strollers. There's a festive atmosphere here on the banks of the Rhine. Skateboarding and roller-blading is so popular that they have to close off the roof area of the underground concert hall to stop the rumbling during concerts.

5.20pm. The chocolate museum. Part history of the early discovery of Aztec "xocolatl", part recreated steamy rainforest, part working factory and truly worth the 10DM entrance fee. At one end is a fountain of hot chocolate, with wafers you can dip in.

6.30pm. Back over the river to the hotel. From the opposite bank the city looks stunning. The spires of the cathedral and the 12 carefully rebuilt Romanesque churches are silhouetted against a rose-coloured dusk.

7pm. Wash, brush-up and feet-up time.

8.10pm. Push my way through a jolly crowd into Peters Brauhaus, one of many Kölsch (Cologne beer) houses. Inside, it is a cross between a pub and a convivial beer hall.

Kölsch is served in thin tumblers — disparagingly referred to as "test tubes" by the Bavarians — so as to be always freshly tapped. It's nice, but to my uninformed palate it doesn't taste particularly different from other beers. From the menu I choose *Himmel und Ad*, literally heaven and earth: apple puree, mashed potato and black pudding.

8.45pm. A waiter picks up a glass from the table next door and drains it; the men at the table don't bat an eyelid. This place will be a riot later on.

9.45pm. Fortified by black pudding, I walk to the nightlife scene on the Hohenzollernring. I'm just passing Marks & Spencer when I hear a busker's lyric about "the presidential dipstick". This proves to be Alan Moorhouse from Cornwall, cheery veteran of 14 years on the streets of Cologne. Does he make a good living? "It's easier in the winter," said Alan, as people are more sympathetic. "I'm enjoying it more now that I'm doing my own songs," he added, and launched into a catchy number about infant mortality.

10.40pm. These streets on the Ring are full of people for whom the night is obviously still young, but I'm exhausted.

Sunday. 9am. Breakfast dispatched, I've slapped on some *eau de Cologne*, schlepped across the rail bridge, and now I'm in the cathedral for communion. The sun comes out during the service and the huge, slender nave is filled with fingers of colour.

10am. Meet city guide Eveline Rose at the Tourist Office, who begins by quoting *Fawlty Towers*, and her commentary thereafter is sprinkled with words like "zillions" and "kerfuffle". For the next two hours she leads a small group of tourists on a walking tour of hidden Cologne, from the ruins of the early Roman city to the face on the church clock which sticks its tongue out at the despised opposite bank of the river every hour.

12.40pm. The time has come for my assault on the cathedral tower. I'm smugly pleased with the ease with which my legs complete the 509 steps. The view from 157 metres up is pretty giddy stuff, but something is missing in the cityscape, and I realise what it is: the cathedral silhouette itself.

1.20pm. I still have enough time for a quick dip into the Ludwig Museum — speciality Pop Art — in the museum and concert hall complex next to the cathedral, with a riveting slow motion film of three women talking.

2.02pm. Back on the Thalys to Brussels. In *Full Disclosure*, Andrew Neil purges the *Sunday Times* of the old guard.

4.35pm. Brussels Midi. I've allowed myself a two and a half hour stopover, about right for an early dinner. After Cologne this city is pleasantly ramshackle and it smells musty and vaguely oriental. It takes 20 minutes to walk to the medieval Grand Place, full of tourists and schoolgirls.

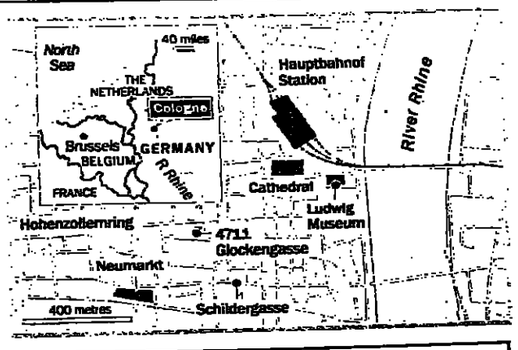
5.10pm. Settle down for an aperitif in a traditional bar called El Cirio. My Leffe beer comes sweet and thick in a huge wine glass. In the gents, the porcelain urinals have huge art deco shoulders like the front of an Odeon cinema. On the wall is a machine selling — big coincidence — *eau de Cologne*, but it is obviously an antique.

5.40pm I order myself *moules-frites* (mussels and chips) in Chez Leon, a specialist among specialists. My mussels arrive quickly, but they seem to have had a longish journey.

6.15pm. Amble to the station.

6.59pm On the Eurostar. Andrew Neil goes through a sticky patch with Rupert Murdoch that keeps me interested all the way back to London. I'm home by 9.30pm, in time for the news.


Eau de Cologne house



COLOGNE FACT FILE

■ **Getting there:** Andrew Eames travelled to Cologne with Eurostar (0990-186186); weekend returns start at £89 per person. He stayed at the Hyatt Hotel, Cologne (00 49 221 828 1234 direct, or UK reservations 0345 581666). Weekend rate for one night's B&B, from DM240 (£84) single and DM280 (£98) double.

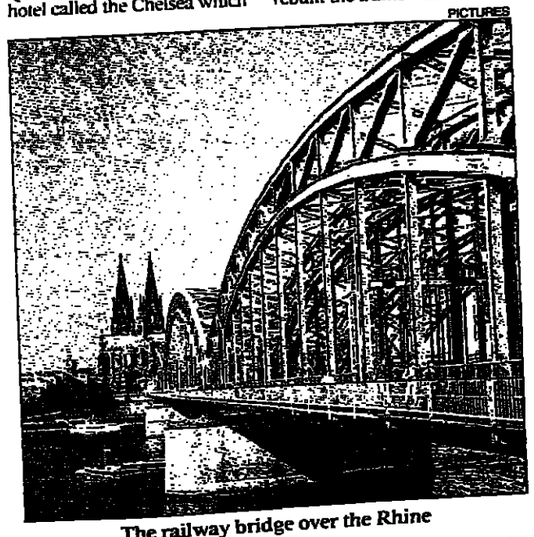
■ **Best time to go:** Cologne's carnival is in early spring — the Thursday prior to the seventh Sunday before Easter — and the highlight is Rosenmontagzug (Rose Monday Parade) which takes place on February 15, 1999 and March 6, 2000.

■ **What to see:** Museums are closed on Mondays. Beatles Museum, Heinsbergstrasse 13, weekdays 10am-2pm, weekends 3pm-7pm, ticket 5DM (£1.70). Ludwig Museum, Bischopsgarten 1 (Tues 10am-8pm, Wed-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat and Sun 11am-6pm; ticket 8DM (£2.75). Peters Brauhaus beer house, Mühlengrasse 1.

■ **Books:** *Germany* (Rough Guides, £14.99); *Germany* (Lonely Planet £13.99).

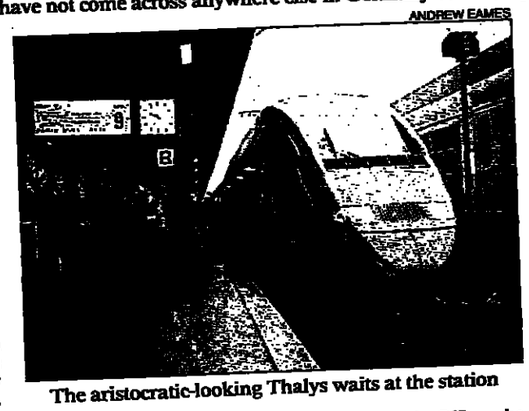
■ **Further information:** Cologne Tourist Office: 00 49 221 3345; German National Tourist Office information line: 0891 600100 (premium rates); Belgian Tourist Board: 0891 887799 (premium rates).

PICTURES


The railway bridge over the Rhine

"Cologne has a street life I have not come across anywhere else in Germany". Here, a pavement artist's work is overshadowed by the cathedral

ANDREW EAMES


The aristocratic-looking Thalys waits at the station

THE VERDICT: VERY SUCCESSFUL

IF anything, having a short time in Cologne made me achieve more. At around five and a half hours each way, the train ride was probably several hours longer than the air journey plus transfers would have been, but enjoyable for anyone who enjoys travel for travel's sake. Moreover you couldn't arrive in Cologne at a better place, right under the cathedral. The latter apart, this is not a city for fine architecture, but it is particularly rich in contemporary culture and has a street life I have not come across anywhere else in Germany.

Stopping off in Brussels for dinner on the way home was a real bonus, although you'd need to plan that in advance if you were travelling on a cheaper (and therefore less flexible) ticket.

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ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 Non-stop British Airways flight from Heathrow to Peking. Spend two nights at the first class Xiyuan Hotel on a room and breakfast basis. During the stay in Peking there are a large range of optional visits possible. Day 4 Fly to Yichang/Wuhan and board a first-class Yangtse cruiser for the next 4 nights on full board and with all shore excursions included. The cruise includes Wushan, the Lesser Gorges, Penjie, White King City, the Three Gorges, Badong, Zigui, Sandouping (site for the dam), and Chongqing where we disembark. Day 8 Fly to Peking and the final night at the Xiyuan Hotel. Day 9 Fly by British Airways non-stop wide-bodied Boeing 747 flight to Heathrow arriving the same day.



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Inclusions: As indicated above; plus UK departure tax. Not Included: local airport tax, visa procurement, insurance (but current Conditions of Booking available on request) shall apply to all reservations. The cruise itinerary is subject to change according to local conditions.

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

Take a bus to the Baltic

BRITAIN'S largest scheduled European coach operator, Eurolines (0990 143219), has added the Baltic states to its range of 450 destinations, with most departures from London's Victoria Coach Station.

A return to Tallinn in Estonia costs £188 and takes 50 hours each way; Riga in Latvia costs £178 (45 hours) and Kaunas in Lithuania £150 (40 hours), with discounts for under-25s on all prices.

For those who cannot face such long journeys, flights take three hours each way to Estonia and Latvia, four hours via Copenhagen to Lithuania, and cost £270, £202-£267 and £281 respectively with Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711).

IF THE sunny weather and the displays at the Chelsea Flower Show inspire you to improve your own particular patch of green, Acorn Activities (01432 830083) is organising a two-day Garden Design weekend at a centre in Kimbolton, near Leominster. Take along a plan and a photograph of your garden and green-fingered experts will help you mix and match suitable plants, as well as teach you how to avoid horticultural pitfalls. The break, during June 13-14, costs £100, and B&B can be arranged from £22 per person per night.

It's Le Touquet

WITH the opening of the Abbeville section of the A16 autoroute between Calais and Paris last week, the string of attractive little resorts along the Côte d'Opale are now within easy reach for a day trip or weekend break across the Channel.

From the newly named Eurotunnel (formerly known as "Le Shuttle") exit on to the A16, it is now less than an hour's journey to Le Touquet, the pristine turn-of-the-century resort known as the "Plage de Paris" with its casino, sophisticated boutiques and nightclubs, fine beaches and legendary fish-soup restaurant Pérard.

Eurotunnel's (0990 353535) day-trip fare is from £35 return, and mini-break tickets cost from £95. The road-toll from Boulogne to Etaples or Le Touquet is Fr6 (60p), while the toll for the complete Calais-Paris journey of just over two hours (you enter the capital at Cergy Pontoise) is Fr90 (£9) — one-way in both cases.

Cresta Holidays (0161-926 9999) offers one night at the two-star Red Fox Hotel in Le Touquet including return travel by Eurotunnel and breakfast, from £92 per person.

Ski summer

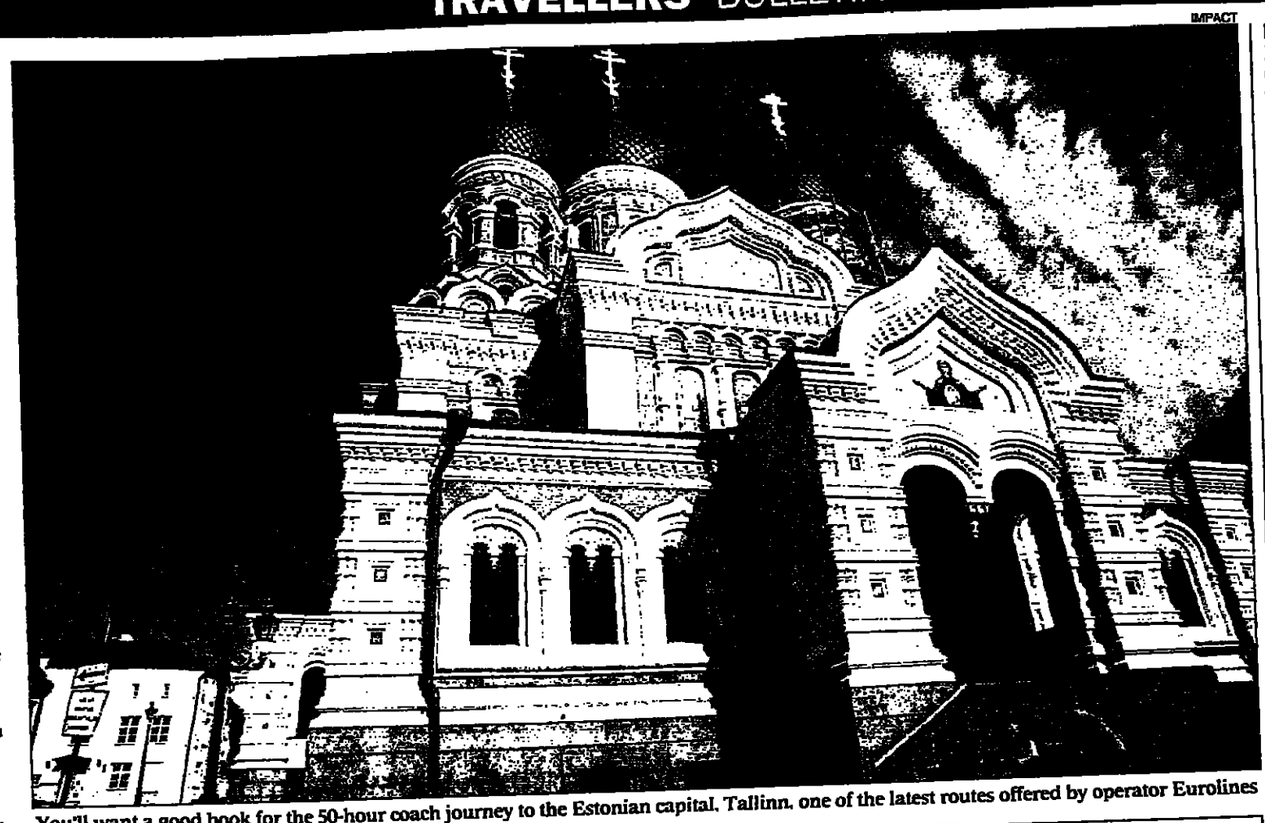
KEEN skiers and students are urgently checking visas, ski wear and bank accounts before heading to New Zealand for the biggest snow party of the summer in Queenstown, the former gold-rush centre. One of the southern hemisphere's funkiest resorts, it boasts bungee-jumping, heli-skiing, sledging and white-water rafting.

From July 18-26, the Winter Festival is a week-long extravaganza of street parties, mountain biking in the snow, ice-carving, jazz evenings, jet-boat sprints and "wild and wacky" snow activities.

Bridge the World (0171-734 7447) offers round-trip flights to Queenstown via Christchurch with prices starting from £724. There are also packages with accommodation available at the Nugget Point Hotel in Queenstown; special facilities include its own helipad (for off-piste skiing trips), a spa, both indoor and outdoor swimming pools and floodlit tennis. The cost is £141 for two nights' half-board.

For the army of 18 to 30-year-olds who may need to earn a bit of cash to pay for their skiing and other sports, New Zealand is offering 2,000 working holiday visas which will be valid for 12 months.

For more information call the New Zealand Immigration Service (0991 100100, a premium rate line).



IMPACT

You'll want a good book for the 50-hour coach journey to the Estonian capital, Tallinn, one of the latest routes offered by operator Eurolines

TRAVEL TIPS **by Jill Crawshaw**



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Pour the wine



BERNACHE is the Loire's "nouveau" wine (the first of the year's harvest). If you want to be involved in its tasting, Inntravel (01653 628811) can arrange an initiation this autumn for anyone wishing to be made a member of the "Order of the Bernache".

The fun ceremony, which takes place at the Vouvray Wine Fête, means you have tasted and passed judgment on the new wine. It is not a completely light-hearted and frivolous occasion — the quality of future vintages depends on keen judgment of the current year's flavour.

The date of the festival (late October or early November) depends on the harvest. Inntravel's weekend, costing £218, includes three nights' B&B at the Michelin-starred Le Cheval Blanc, a gastronomic 17th-century coaching inn in the market town of Bléré, as well as two dinners, a lunch in a Vouvray restaurant, transfers with a local guide to the festival and cross-Channel fares for car and passengers.

Working weeks

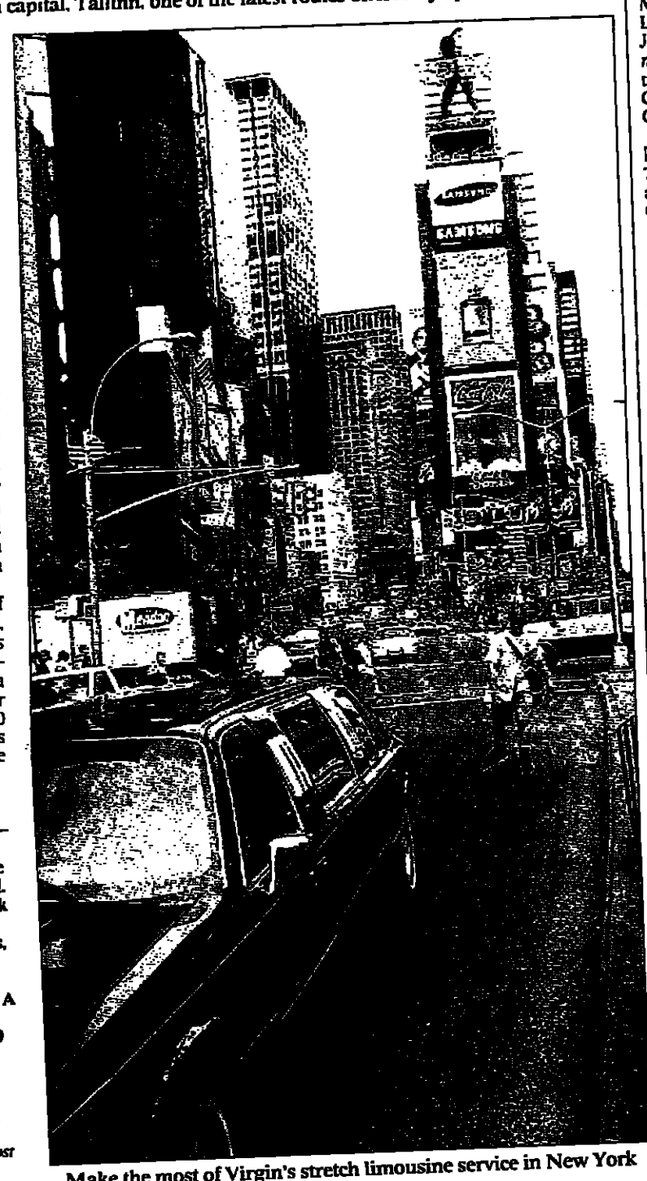
VOLUNTEERS are being recruited by Raleigh International (0171-371 8585) for its ten-week expeditions that will take place during 1999. The 17 to 25-year-olds will be working on new community and environmental projects in Ghana and Mongolia.

In Ghana, where literacy rates are as low as 20 per cent, the volunteers' tasks will include building schools in the north of the country; while, in Mongolia, the participants will join in with the environmental projects in the Gobi desert.

For this summer, volunteer staff such as engineers, builders, doctors, nurses, drivers or mountain leaders (aged over 25) are needed for the 12-week expeditions to Belize, Namibia and China — expenses per volunteer are likely to come to between £500 and £1,000. Younger volunteers (aged 17-25) are expected to raise £2,995.

ARRIVE in style on your American holiday next year — Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) is offering a stretch limousine service between the airport and your hotel. The service costs £115 from Newark or JFK to Manhattan, £135 from Orlando airport to Orlando hotels, £220 from Orlando airport to Clearwater or St Petersburg, and £155 from Miami to South Beach. A typical two-centre Orlando and Miami holiday costs between £549 and £829 for flights, 14 nights' accommodation and car hire or ordinary transfers.

Travel articles published in The Times *since January of this year are now available on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on* http://www.the-times.co.uk



Make the most of Virgin's stretch limousine service in New York

☐ LIFE ON the open waves: Leader's (01803 834300) cruises have no fixed itinerary other than departing Dartmouth on June 13 and returning on June 20 via the Scillies or Brittany. The six-night cruise is £375 per person, including full board, fuel, harbour dues and insurance.

☐ LIFE beneath the waves: Everymann Holidays (0345 023568) has diving trips off the Isle of Man. Four nights' B&B start at £108 including sea travel, departing Liverpool or Heysham, or £138 by air from Liverpool. Boat hire, two dives and some equipment are £25 per person. Boats must include at least four people.

☐ GET BACK in the saddle with Inntravel (01653 628862), which has a week's trail riding from May 30 in the Aragon Pyrenees, Spain. Seven nights' half-board (including lunches) in farmhouses and country hotels, six days' guided trail riding, return flights from Gatwick and transfers is £784 per person.

☐ THE 1998 BOC Covent Garden Festival of Opera and Music Theatre opens today and runs until June 6. Highlights include performances from Elizabeth Connell, Eve Meier and the Music Theatre London's new production of Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. Some events are free; tickets are from £8. Details: Covent Garden Festival Box Office (0171-420 0171).

☐ AIRLINE Network (01772 727757) is offering 12 nights' accommodation at the Royal Cliff Beach Resort in Pattaya, Thailand, starting at £499 per person. Return flights from Heathrow, transfers included. Departs every Monday until June 30.

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ SHOPAHOLICS desperate to splash some cash should consider Amathus Holidays' (0171-831 2383) trips to Dubai. Three nights' room only at a five-star hotel in Dubai is £495 per person, including return flights, taxes and transfers. Departs daily from Heathrow and Manchester from June 1.

☐ TRANSUN (01865 798888) has seven nights' half-board at the Bon Repos Apartments in Korcula, an island off the Dubrovnik Riviera, from £159 per person, and 14 nights' half-board at the Hotel Adriatic, Dubrovnik, starting at £299 per person. The price includes return flights from Gatwick, taxes and transfers, with departures every Thursday until June 25.

☐ RAINFOREST one day, Barrier Reef the next: 12 nights' accommodation at the Cairns Colonial Club is £799 per person with Austravel (0171-734 7755). The price includes return flights and taxes but not transfers. Departs daily from Heathrow; offer valid until June 30, and must be booked by June 15.

JOANNA HUNTER

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday May 25 to Saturday May 30, 1998
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

Route	Promotional Fare*	Flexible*
London – Amsterdam	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
London – Barcelona	from £114 Debonair (ex-Luton)	from £154 Debonair (ex-Luton)
London – Berlin	£129 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
London – Geneva	£78 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£420 BA (ex-Gatwick/Heathrow)
London – Glasgow	from £58 KLM uk (ex-Stansted)	£158 KLM uk (ex-Stansted)
London – Lisbon	£129 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
London – Milan	£100 Go (ex-Stansted)	£428 BA (ex-Gatwick/Heathrow)
London – Nice	from £117 Debonair (ex-Luton)	from £136 Debonair (ex-Luton)
London – Palma	from £98 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£530 BA (ex-Gatwick)
Birmingham – Paris	£113 BA	£331 BA

Airline telephone numbers
AB Airlines 0800 4588111
British Airways (BA) 0345 222111
Debonair 0541 500300
easyJet 0990 292929
Go 08456 054321
KLM uk 0990 074074
Transavia 01293 596650

Notes
* Fares with Debonair and Go include taxes. Other fares shown exclude tax.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.

Seaside games threat



Slot machines could disappear from amusement arcades when licence fees rise

The future of slot machines, a central part of the British seaside experience, may be under threat from increased Government licence fees. *Anthea Lawson writes.*

The Budget introduced radical changes to Amusement Machine Licence Duty, raising the annual duty on slot machines by 20 per cent, and the cost of a seasonal licence by 35 per cent. An amendment to the 1998 Finance Bill, which would have made the new charges more bearable, was rejected last week.

Customs and Excise has defended this increase as long overdue, and one that can easily be absorbed by the operators of piers and seaside amusement arcades. They, however, beg to differ.

The British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions (BALPPA) complains that the changes were made without consultation or warning, and could have severe effects on their members.

"We represent family businesses which provide seaside fun for British families," said David Howell, chairman of BALPPA. "We are already coping with the pull of foreign travel due to the strong pound. Add to that the appalling weather at the start of the season and many businesses may not be able to survive."

He fears that fewer machines will be licensed, affecting suppliers and manufacturers as well as operators. Many seaside towns are already unemployment black-spots and tourism is crucial to their economies.

It is at the small, often family-run piers and seaside arcades that the impact will be greatest. Mostly built during the Victorian era, the piers now require constant structural maintenance, and funds are already stretched. The slot machines provide vital income, on which VAT already has to be paid.

In response to the suggestion of Customs and Excise that the increase can be absorbed by raising the prices charged to holidaymakers, pier owner Anthony Brenner, from Teignmouth in Devon, laughs out loud.

"Of course we can't do that — they're failing to see the point," he says. "This is throwaway money. People need to be tempted. If it costs more than 10p, they won't bother." Since the increased costs cannot be passed on to the consumer, they must be met by the operators themselves.

Mr Brenner's family has run Teignmouth pier since 1961. In recent years, keeping afloat has become increasingly difficult. "The lottery took 10 per cent off our takings straight away, and we've never really pulled back. These changes might be OK in Leicester Square or on Brighton pier, but we need more help here."

In the absence of assistance from lottery funds, privately owned piers (which constitute more than half of the 46 piers in Britain) are having to find alternative means of survival. Mr Brenner has reduced his number of slot machines from 50 to 35 to meet the seasonal licence fee increase, and is introducing new amusements such as children's rides. "It is just not as viable as it used to be," he says.

The drift of the British away from their seaside resorts has been happening for several decades, ever since package holidays became readily affordable for many families. But the pier owners feel that they are helping to preserve a vital part of our heritage, and deserve better treatment.

David Howell says that until recently, BALPPA has welcomed the government's positive approach towards tourism in Britain. But, he says, this short-sighted approach is a "slap in the face" for those trying to preserve the piers.

Take to the Channel to see the sun's total eclipse

Tourists fearful that Cornwall will be full for next summer's total eclipse of the sun are taking to the Channel to see the spectacular, *Steve Keenan writes.*

Brittany Ferries has started a waiting list after being deluged by eclipse-watchers and France-bound holiday-makers wanting to book a crossing for August 11. The company has even had requests to reserve seats on the sundeck, with enthusiasts wanting a clear view of the first eclipse in the UK for 72 years.

The total eclipse will be best viewed in the UK from Cornwall. But the Channel and Cherbourg peninsula are also prime viewing sites.

Estimates of how many extra people will pour into Cornwall — in the peak of the holiday season — range from 500,000 to 2.5 million. The 100,000 hotels and guest-houses in Cornwall are already full, while a Penzance-based company this week applied for planning approval for 18 temporary campsites across the county.

Based on this summer's schedules, which are likely to be retained in 1999, the best option is Brittany Ferries' 8am sailing from Plymouth to Roscoff. The 1,200-passenger *Quiberon* has a large sundeck and will be exactly halfway to France when the two minute eclipse occurs at 11.11am.

● *Brittany Ferries: 0990 360360.*

TRAVELLERS' TIP

WHEN you travel, take a couple of those clear plastic bags that have press-shut, water-tight seals. They are useful for carrying a wet bar of soap, or when camping to keep small quantities of salt or sugar for cooking, or to keep matches dry. They are also handy for carrying jewellery and emergency money. — *Matt Britton, Bristol.*

● *Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, with your name and address and day-time telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrasebook of your choice.*

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

Fly away from football fever

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart

TRAVEL EDITOR

Non-football fans should enjoy our guide to holidays away from the World Cup on page 28. Not being much of a fan myself, I am tempted to head straight back Down Under and while away the tournament in the rainforest of northern Queensland, where I spent several wonderful days last week.

I was staying at the Coconut Beach Rainforest Resort at Cape Tribulation, in one of the small wooden villas dotted across a hillside and built on stilts, so you look straight out into the thick of the forest.

There are no televisions or phones in the villas (although when film star Val Kilmer stayed he insisted on installing one) so there was nothing to disturb the noise of the wind, heavy (and unseasonal) rain and the insects and frogs. One night I joined a guided walk through the forest and over a mangrove swamp hunting for animals. We didn't see crocodiles, the ultimate prize, but we did see a two-metre Night Tiger stealthily creeping across a tree in pursuit of a Forest Dragon — that is, a common brown snake chasing one of the large local lizards — but for me, our guide, and the rest of the party, it was just as exciting as any World Cup goal.

SYDNEY'S commuters enjoy the efficient service of the cream-and-green ferry boats that link its bays. In Bangkok, the Chao Phraya river is a busy artery, with dozens of "long-tailed" commuter boats zapping from pier to pier. New York's Staten Island ferry is a legend. So why can't traffic-choked London make proper use of the empty eight-lane highway that runs through its centre, better known as the River Thames?

There are tourist boats on the Thames, but they do not offer the frequency, regularity or low fares needed for a commuter service. The stumbling block with all previous attempts to offer such a service was that London Transport, which runs the Travelcard scheme on buses and the Underground, has not allowed the Travelcard to be used on ferries. A couple of years ago I took a ferry from Waterloo to Canary Wharf, which cost £3 one way. To commute this way would have added £30 a week to my travel costs — no wonder I was the only passenger.

City Cruises and White Horse Ferries now have contracts to provide river links from 2000. But as Ken Welsby of City Cruises pointed out, their services will still be primarily aimed at tourists.

John Prescott this week opened the new Bankside pier by the Globe Theatre on the south bank, part of the new pier network that a proper ferry service will need. But plans to allow the Travelcard to be used on ferries are still at the discussion stage. I hope our Deputy Prime Minister, or the future Mayor of London, has the sense to push through the measure.

LONELY Planet, the guidebook company, has produced a calendar featuring a different exotic destination each month. May's country? Indonesia. The caption says it offers "the chance to live dangerously" and that visitors will find the country "a challenge". Most prescient.

Bureaucrats dither over Bali

The island is peaceful in spite of unrest in Indonesia, says Jeannette Hyde

Holidaymakers with bookings to Bali — many of them honeymooners — were in confusion this week as the Foreign Office changed its advice on the island's safety several times.

The holiday island of Bali, about 600 miles from the capital, Jakarta — the heart of Indonesia's troubles — is calm and ready to greet visitors, despite mixed messages from tour operators.

Holiday companies contacted by *The Times* this week, including British Airways Holidays, Kuoni, Thomson and Destination Far East, are offering a full refund or an alternative holiday to customers who do not want to visit Bali. But most operators will still take you to the island, if you want to go there, flying via Singapore or Malaysia rather than Jakarta. The advice is to contact your travel agent or tour operator and to consult your travel insurance company as soon as possible if you want to change your plans.

Christopher Norton, general manager of the two Four Seasons luxury resorts on the island, said: "It is a bit frustrating because there is a big difference between Jakarta and Bali. If you decide not to go to Bali because of the unrest in Jakarta, it is a bit like not going to Sicily because of troubles in Russia."

The Foreign Office changed its advice twice in one day (Wednesday), to the confusion of tour operators, airlines, hotels and their clients.

Originally the Foreign Office advised against travel to all of Indonesia except Bali, which was considered safe. That advice was altered to include Bali and travellers were urged "to leave immediately".

But as tour operators starting contacting clients and even flying them home, the Foreign Office deemed Bali safe again.

"There is less risk in Bali where so far there have been no reports of trouble. British nationals in Bali are advised to avoid large crowds and if in doubt to stay indoors," said the Foreign Office on Thursday, when President Suharto resigned.

Tour operator Kuoni had contacted its clients on the island on Wednesday with the Foreign Office advice to leave immediately, but its holidaymakers had refused.

Maggi Nixon, director of sales for Oberoi Hotels, which has a 75-villa property in Bali said: "We have six rooms occupied by British people and they refused to take Foreign Office advice to leave."

A British Airways Holidays spokeswoman said: "We have sent two staff out to Bali so they can react quickly to things. We have contacted everyone down there (about 100 people) and asked them if they want to come back and they said they did not want to."

Thomson Holidays had more success at persuading customers to leave and flew ten home on Thursday — only to find halfway through the flight that the Foreign Office had decided Bali was safe after all.

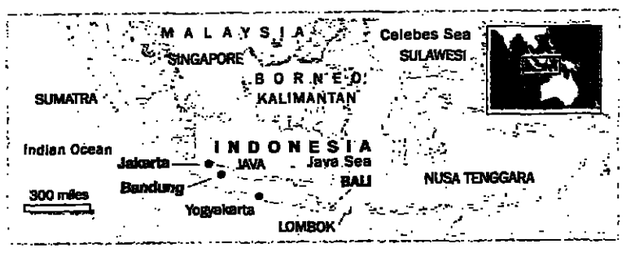
Thomson has cancelled two trips to Bali tomorrow and Tuesday while it reassesses the situation.



SUNG-SU

A demonstrator holds the Indonesian flag aloft during riots in Jakarta as students clashed violently with the police and the army

PICTURES



Mr Norton of Four Seasons said: "The people who are here are enjoying themselves enormously. Today we have the most glorious blue skies and you can see the volcanoes clearly. Everything is totally peaceful here but despite that we are seeing cancellations." Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines are proving popular alternatives to Indonesia.

He claimed his two properties were currently 40 per cent full — half as full as they would normally be at this time of year.

The current problems in Jakarta are the latest in a string of blights to hit Bali's tourism industry.

Although Asian smogs never hit the island, many people cancelled holidays, fearing that the bad weather may spread there.

It has also lost tourists from other parts of Asia because the monetary crisis has made travel expensive for them.

But for Britons, the currency devaluation in Indonesia means that it is extremely cheap to buy meals and souvenirs in Bali.

Susan Jane Turner, 39, who returned from a holiday in Bali last Monday, said the only problem she encountered was delays at the airport as flights to Jakarta were cancelled and passengers were redirected elsewhere.



A temple procession on Bali — 600 miles from Jakarta and peaceful

High tail it to Hong Kong

A growing number of British tourists are heading all the way to Hong Kong for long weekends, lured by cheap prices and tourist tax cuts.Hong Kong hotel and flight prices have dropped by an average of 30 per cent this year, making a short break as affordable as Europe. A reduction from 5 to 3 per cent in hotel tax in April and a forthcoming departure tax cut — which will halve it, to £9 — on July 6 when the long-awaited Chek Lap Kok airport opens, are making it attractive.

A three-night trip with British Airways Holidays taken before June 14 is £379 per person including three-star accommodation at the Wesley Hotel and return BA flights from Heathrow.

Hotels have been forced to cut prices to try to win back custom after a downturn in business following the political handover of the former British colony to the Chinese last July. Claire Golding, product manager for tour operator Austravel, said: "The new airport and tax cuts are good news for tourists. Hong Kong saw a big drop in business after the handover because hotels had very high rates at that time, anticipating a boom. But in fact interest in the destination dropped off.

"Also, the Asian monetary crisis meant places like Bangkok became much cheaper options for a stop-off on the way to Australia, so Hong Kong lost out there too."

Last year Hong Kong received ten million visitors — a million less than the previous year. A Tourist Association spokeswoman in London said: "These offers mean we are seeing a new market to Hong Kong: young people on short breaks. We are competing with Amsterdam and Paris."

Egypt struggling to win back tourists



The Temple of Hatshepsut, where 58 tourists died

Egypt is making a concerted effort to attract tourists, six months after the massacre that killed 58 visitors and brought the country's tourist industry to its knees, *Steve Keenan writes.*

The number of British visitors to Egypt has plummeted since the terrorist shootings at the temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Luxor.

Only two charter flights now operate from the UK, compared to eight last year. Visitor figures have fallen by more than 80 per cent.

The impact on tourism has been dramatic. Only 50 of 350 Nile cruise ships are operating. One 110-capacity Nile ship recently carried just 28 passengers, while the Luxor Hilton had only two guests one night this month.

But the Egyptian Tourist Office last week flew a party of British tour operators to Luxor and Cairo to show them the improved security arrangements, which, the authorities say, means it is "as safe as possible" for tourists.

High-profile armed police, coupled with plain clothes officers, now patrol monuments, while metal detectors have been placed in hotels and airports.

A new police team is in place in Luxor, advised by officers from foreign forces, including Americans and French. Three senior generals are also facing trial for negligence following the massacre.

A TV advertising campaign began this month in co-operation with five British tour operators, aimed at encouraging tourists to return.

Hayes and Jarvis, a major operator, has launched its first stand-alone Egypt brochure for five years — more recently its Egypt programme has been in its long-haul brochure — with prices down by ten per cent from last year. Holidays start at £229 for seven nights' B&B in Luxor.

"Hotels have offered discounts — they are desperate to get business back," said Declan Morton, H&J planning manager.

The company is sharing charter flights with Thomson Holidays and another tour operator. But most companies with just a handful of customers continue to use scheduled flights with Egypt Air and British Airways. Kuoni is operating only a quarter of its Egypt programme.

Thomas Cook Holidays reported this week, however, that interest in Egypt was beginning to return, with seven-night Nile cruises and Red Sea holidays proving the most popular.

Product manager Sarah Leveritt said: "We are optimistic that sales will continue to move back towards previous levels."

WITH JUST over a year to go before the European Union bans duty free, a new survey shows that the average Briton spends £75 on such goods when travelling, and 80 per cent of them are stocking up their own drinks and cosmetics cabinets, rather than buying gifts.

On average Britons allow £500 spending money per person each holiday, including duty free-purchases.

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October 6, 13, 20, 27	£1100	£1350
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This is the real match of the day

TONY STONE



Bull riding at a rodeo, the most serious sport during June and July for those who live in North Dakota. Few Americans away from the east coast states know anything about football — and care even less

Football free zone

For those who dread World Cup mania, a new service – watch for this logo – offering ways to avoid the frenzy. Today, football-free holidays, by Tom Chesshyre

Avoiding the World Cup will not be easy. It is the world's biggest sporting event — hundreds of millions of fans will watch the drama unfold on television and a record-breaking 500,000 supporters are expected to visit France between June 10 and July 12 for the live action.

The good news for football-phobes is that there are likely to be lots of cheap last-minute deals, because so many fans will either be glued to their television screens in Britain or else following their heroes around France. Here are our suggestions for a few footie-free holidays:

ALSACE

France

Alsace, the northeastern region of France around Strasbourg, has launched a tourist campaign called "*Allez les Bleues*" ("Come on the Blues", a French football chant). Rather than help support the French team, however, the campaign is designed to highlight Alsace's blue lakes, blue skies, cordon bleu cuisine and blue-painted houses.

The nearest World Cup game is more than 250 miles away. Winetrails (01306 712111) has week-long walking trips visiting Alsatian vineyards from £475; tastings, most meals, accommodation in two and three-star hotels included. Flights cost about £140 to Strasbourg or Basle.

BAFFIN ISLAND

Canada

Football is growing in popularity in Canada, but it did not qualify for this year's World Cup and ice-hockey, baseball and skiing are still the principal sports. Also, few games will be on television, so you are unlikely to bump into any football bores.

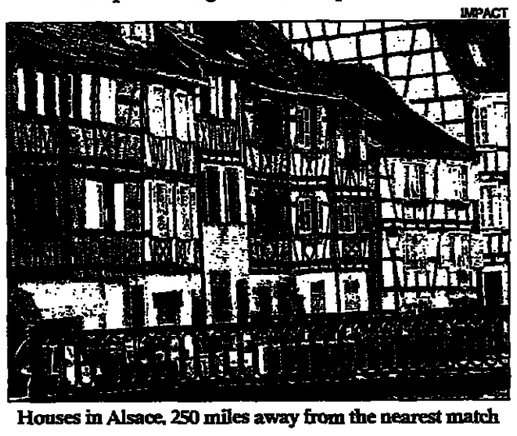
Guerba Expeditions (01373 826611) has a selection of Canadian holidays during the tournament which includes a nine-day tour of Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories. This begins at Pond Inlet, 400 miles west of Greenland, and includes a journey by snowmobile and sledge to Bylot Island. It costs £1,910 which includes all meals and accommodation in lodges and camp sites. Flights cost about £550.

BRITAIN

The best way to get away from it all in Britain will be to hole up in an isolated country cottage. There are several agencies with a good selection including Country Holidays (01282 445400), Blakes Cottages (01282 445555), Welcome Cottage Holidays (01756 799999) and Rural Retreats (01386 701177).

National Trust Holiday Cottages (01225 791133) has some extremely remote properties, including a cottage sleeping four near Ysbyty Ifan in Snowdonia National Park. It has no electricity (so no television) and is lit by gas lamps; a week costs from £344.

IMPACT



Houses in Alsace, 250 miles away from the nearest match

THE SILK ROAD

You can miss almost the whole World Cup on a 25-day tour along the Silk Road from Pakistan to China — one of the oldest trading routes between East and West. Neither country is taking part in the tournament, so you are unlikely to bump into any fans.

The tour starts in Islamabad, Pakistan, and progresses along an old caravan trail on the Karakoram Highway to the Hunza Valley. There are then stop-offs at Kashgar, Urumqi, Turfan, Xi'an (with the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang and the buried army of terracotta figures) and, finally, Beijing.

Explore Worldwide (01252 319448) has 23 nights' B&B in hotels and lodges departing on June 11 for £1,995; flights from Heathrow, transfers and guides included.

COOPER ISLAND

British Virgin Islands

The Jamaican team, the Reggae Boyz, has qualified for the World Cup — the first Caribbean side to do so — and there is great excitement among islanders. Hotels in most resorts are likely to have satellite links, but there are a few places that will be football-free. One is Cooper Island in the British Virgin Islands. This tiny place (one-and-a-half miles long and half a mile wide) has no roads, cars, nightclubs or television sets. The most popular sport is diving; there are plenty of wrecks to explore on nearby coral reefs.

British Virgin Islands Club (0181-232 9781) has a week's full-board accommodation at a cottage at the three/four-star Cooper Island Beach Resort from £1,200 during the World Cup; flights from Gatwick and transfers included.

MALAWI

Five African countries are playing in France: Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Tunisia. These should be avoided by football-phobes as support will be fanatical, especially in South Africa where the "Bafana Bafana" team (Zulu for "The Boys") are national heroes.

However, Malawi, in south-eastern Africa, should be "safe". A horseback safari in the Nyika National Park is a good way to see the country. The 1,875 square miles of park is packed with wildlife, including eland, monkeys, zebras and leopards, more than 350 species of bird and 120 different types of orchid.

Wildlife Worldwide (0181-667 9158) has a week's full-board safari for £745 — accommodation at a remote lodge and a tented camp. Flights are not included and cost about £800.

MICRONESIA

The Federated States of Micronesia — a series of 600 islands extending across 1,800 miles in the western Pacific Ocean — has never played in a World Cup (nor is it likely to). Not surprisingly, there is little local interest in football. Diving, however, is popular: Micronesia's clear blue waters are packed with giant clams, moray eels, manta rays and turtles. There are also lots of wrecks to explore: it was the scene of one of the biggest naval battles in history when America struck back at the Japanese fleet responsible for Pearl Harbor.

PICTURES



Smuggler's Cove in Zakynthos, not a lager lout in sight

Hayes & Jarvis (0181-222 7840) has an 11-night scuba diving holiday from £3,109 in June: the price includes flights, all meals, seven nights on a luxury yacht and the opportunity of diving near sunken Japanese vessels.

NORTH DAKOTA

USA

The United States staged the last World Cup and is playing in this summer's tournament, but most Americans find football (or "soccer" as they call it) a turn-off. Away from the east coast it is unlikely that many will even know the event is on.

Of all the states, North Dakota will probably be the least interested. During June and July it is rodeo season, taken extremely seriously by the locals. There is also "the world's largest turkey barbecue" on June 20 in Aneta, and a five-day county fair in Rugby (July 1-5) with stock-car racing and a demolition derby.

Destination USA (0171-253 2000) has a week's fly-drive package to North Dakota from £595 in June; flights from Gatwick to Bismarck and basic car hire are included.

SWEDEN

Football is Sweden's favourite sport and the national side made the final of the 1958 tournament (losing to Brazil). However, it has not qualified this time, while neighbours and arch rivals Norway and Denmark have. Many disappointed Swedish supporters will have an ambivalent attitude, making this one of the few European countries unlikely to be gripped by World Cup mania.

Swedish Lapland's lakeland region will probably be one of the most football-free areas. Norvista (0171-409 7334) is offering six-night fishing holidays with B&B accommodation at a three-star hotel from £795 during the World Cup; flights, car hire and entry to a fishing competition included.

ZAKYNTHOS

Greece

This quiet Greek island lies to the south of Kefalonia. It is not as developed as Corfu or Crete and there is little fear of rampaging lager louts. Zakynthos, also called Zante, is mountainous to the north and west, while the central and southern plains consist of olive groves and vineyards. A good choice for families is a self-catering apartment in either Kypseli or Vassilikos, both on the sandy east coast and within half an hour's drive of the capital (also called Zakynthos), with its restaurants and cafés around the harbour.

Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) has a selection of properties from £370 for two weeks in Kypseli during the World Cup; based on two sharing, flights from Gatwick included.

● *Football fans should not despair. Next week we will publish our visitor's guide to the venues hosting the World Cup.*

PICTURES



A boy herds goats in Kashgar. You, too, can avoid the World Cup on a tour along the Silk Road from Pakistan to China

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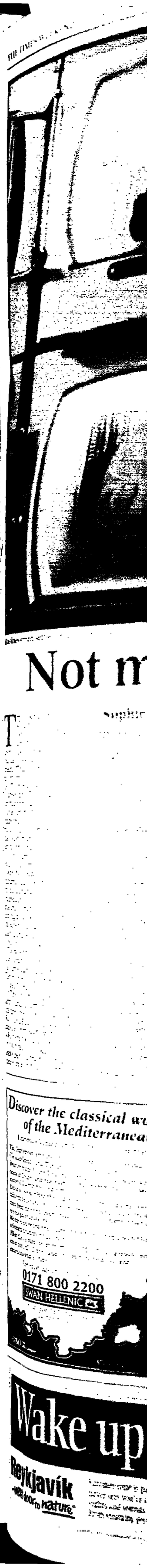
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CRYSTAL FRANCE



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TONY STONE



Businessmen settle for the night in a capsule hotel, traditionally a men-only establishment. Although considered a Japanese eccentricity, they are great for budget travellers, and their pared-down simplicity gives them a strange beauty

Not much room at the inn

Sophie Campbell discovers the charms of Japan's ancient *ryokan* and the modern capsule hotel

Try asking about capsule hotels at the tourist office in Tokyo, and the shutters come down as smoothly and opaquely as a *shoji* (paper) screen. These honeycombs of tiny rooms — established in the 1970s for workers stranded in late-night Tokyo and now depicted throughout the world as an eccentricity — are not the image they wish to project. It makes it all the more galling that Westerners find the concept fascinating.

It's the same when you ask about the more exclusive *ryokan*. Not because anyone is embarrassed about these traditional Japanese inns, which are frequently seen as national treasures, but for fear of causing disappointment. They are expensive, and first-time guests (Japanese or not) usually require an introduction.

The *ryokan* and the capsule hotel occupy different ends of the same Japanese tradition. They both evolved in response to specific needs: the *ryokan* for 17th-century salesmen, pilgrims and courtiers making the tiresome journey between Kyoto and Edo (old Tokyo); the capsule for modern employees who were too late, too drunk or too tired to make the long and expensive train journey to their homes in the suburbs. In their own ways, both provide for the traveller's every need. And their design shares that extraordinary purity and devotion to function that makes Japanese interiors so compelling to the Western eye.

Travelling with my friend Charles, I managed — through an introduction — to book into Tawaraya, a 150-year-old Kyoto inn, which (despite its prestige) welcomes foreigners. The irony of travelling on the smallest budget possible in order to save up for two days in paradise — at about £200 per night — hit home as we arrived at the discreet front door wearing our only good clothes and carrying a shameful cargo of dirty washing. If we washed it in the sink, would we be able to hang it up? For that matter, would there be a sink?

I now know this to be so woefully gauche, so very contrary to the spirit of a ryokan, that I am embarrassed to think about it. My only excuse is that at the time my mind was addled by delight at the experience we were having and horror at the cost.

The enclosed world of the *ryokan* is doubly magical in a busy city like Kyoto. Once we had removed our shoes at the entrance step, a smiling maid called Sachi showed us to our room and left us to change into split-toed socks, *yukata* (light kimonos) and over-jackets ("left side over right side," she explained, "other way is for dead people") before coming back with tea.

After tea we were free to trip about our *tatami* mat territory, admiring the sunken table with its cunningly heated floor, the veranda overlooking one of the delicate indoor gardens for which Tawaraya is famous, the bathroom with its wooden stool and bowl for washing and cypress-wood bath for soaking. Then Sachi brought in a set meal of seasonal food so delicately presented that we sat gaping in Neanderthal wonder for several seconds before eating everything in the wrong order.

Not for the first time in Japan, I noticed my perspective alter as my eye lit upon the tiny bamboo garden outside the bathroom window, the textures of fine earth walls and clean, grass-scented mats, the autumn *ikebana* arrangement and its accompanying calligraphy scroll. While we shuffled off to admire the library — a white womb filled with volumes on Japanese art and culture — the dining table was replaced with two futons, each with a heavy quilt. Here there is no such thing as a double futon which makes the hotels perfect for platonic couples.

There were embarrassments, though — such as being caught by Sachi trying to sneak out with our washing. "I will do it!" she giggled. "Oh no!" we said, hanging onto the bag. "We love launderettes," and dived into the nearest one. It was the most expensive laundry on the planet — £30 to wash five pairs of M & S knickers and two shirts. Afterwards, we learnt that Sachi would have done it free, as part of the legendary service.

At the end of our stay, when Charles left for England, I decided I wanted to sample the other end of Japanese hospitality and set about trying to book myself into a capsule hotel. But it was easier said than done. Capsule hotels are generally for men and when I eventually found one seven floors above the neon of the Shinjuku district of Tokyo, the girl behind the desk held up crossed arms as though I had a pair of horns and a tail.

Several men putting their clothes in lockers turned curiously as I retreated; I caught an atmosphere as relaxed and masculine as a Surrey golf club, saw a vending machine selling crisp white shirts, ties and underpants, and then the lift doors closed in my face. Not what I was expecting.

But what was I expecting? Something grimmer. Something more utilitarian and clinical. Lodged deep in my head was an image of a mortuary with drawers for rooms. The *Lonely Planet* description of the capsules as "two metres by one metre by one metre — about the size of a coffin," didn't help. When I did track down a hotel with a women's floor, a Japanese friend warned me that the women in it would probably be addicts, or prostitutes, or both.

At opening time, 10pm, I checked into the Capsule Hotel Asakusa alongside a middle-aged lady. The attendant showed me how to put my money in a machine and take a ticket. For 50p I swapped my shoes for slippers and we set off to the women's floor, where the capsules, stacked two high and ten along, stretched away. I crawled through a hatch with a concertina door, into a room six feet long and five feet wide, wallpapered in white. I could kneel upright with room to spare. There was a pay TV, a locker, a futon, and a freshly-laundered *yukata*.

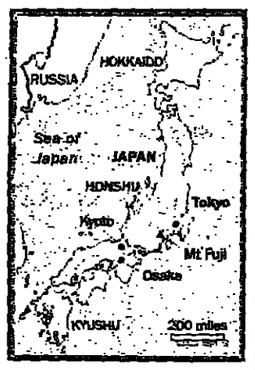
Perhaps most important of all, everything was clean. The lino was swept, the showers were immaculate and the communal bath where I wallowed for ages was spotless and empty of people. Food and drink were available from vending machines. The cafeteria would open in the morning. Back in the capsules, the doors were closed as tight as clams and outside hung dresses so mumsy that worries about hookers and junkies flew out of the modular window. I slept like a log and my only complaint was the lack of natural light.

I don't know why the Japanese are so ashamed of capsule hotels. Nobody would choose, given the money, to stay in a small, windowless room. But for anyone on a budget it has to be the best deal in the world. In addition, the design of the capsules is so pared-down and so specific that they have a strange beauty of their own. It's only through the prism of Western values that they become bizarre and comical. To me, both the *ryokan* and capsule hotel seemed quintessentially Japanese. And, bank balance willing, I will certainly stay in both of them again.

AXIOM



The elegant *ryokan* of Tawaraya in Kyoto



JAPAN FACT FILE

■ **Getting there:** Sophie Campbell flew with Japan Airlines (0345 747700), which has 18 flights a week from London, including daily flights to Tokyo and Kansai and a new twice-weekly flight to Nagoya.

Its agent, Jaltour (0171-495 1775) has returns for £799 plus £20 tax until July 9.

■ **Where to stay:** Sophie Campbell stayed at the Tawaraya Ryokan in Kyoto (tel 0081 75 211 5566; fax 75 211 2204). The hotel has rooms from £170 per night (one or two people) in low season, and from £220 in high season, including breakfast and dinner.

Limited English is spoken, so it is best to book by fax.

Laundry is part of the service — ask your personal maid.

She also stayed at the Capsule Hotel Asakusa in Tokyo (tel 33 847 4477). A short walk from Tawaramachi underground station on the Ginza line, it accommodates men and women on separate floors.

English is not spoken and you cannot book in advance or keep a room during the day.

Simply turn up after 10pm — opening time — with £12 (2,600 yen) and 100-yen coins for locker hire and vending machines which dispense food and drinks. The cafeteria opens in the morning.



■ **Red tape:** British and Irish passport holders do not need visas for stays of up to 90 days.

■ **Reading:** Useful publications include *Japan* (Lonely Planet, £15.99), *Japan* (Cadogan Books, £17.99), *Ryokan: The Japanese Inn — A Gateway to Traditional Japan* (Shufunotomo, £25).

■ **Further information:** from the Japan National Tourist Organisation on 0171-734 9638 or access its website *http://www.jnto.go.jp*.

The Japan Centre at 212 Piccadilly, London W1V 9LD also houses a travel shop (0171-287 1388), a Natural House food shop (0171-434 4218) and a bookshop (0171-434 4218).

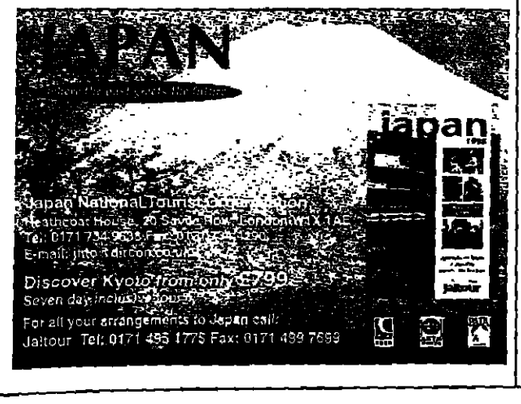
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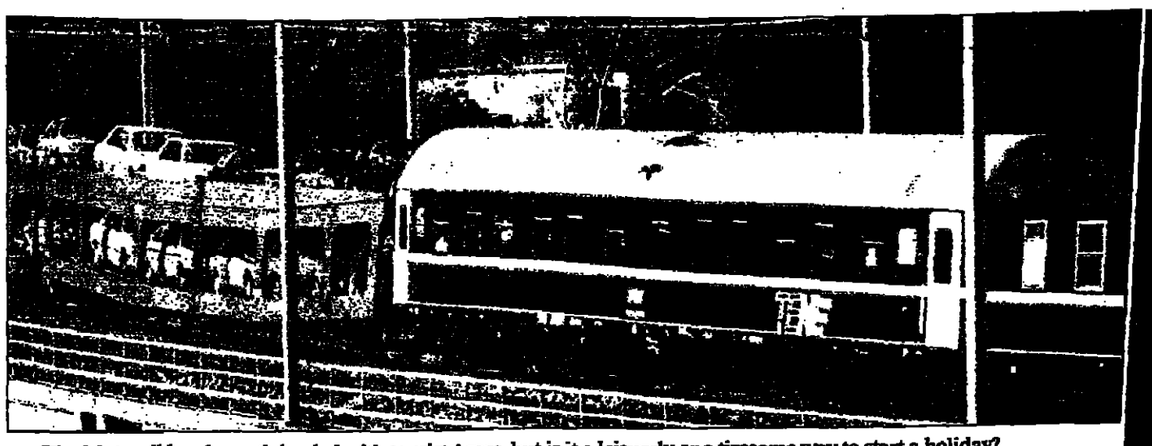
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The Motorail heads south loaded with tourists' cars, but is it a leisurely or a tiresome way to start a holiday?

The joy and misery of the Motorail



Brian MacArthur believes in letting the train take the strain

My worst memory of travelling to my favourite part of France — the south west department of the Gers — is of the year we decided to drive. Up at 6am, belting down the motorway to Dover, waiting for the ferry, driving to Paris, and the death-defying hazards of the périphérique. When at last we were heading south at 80mph in 70 degrees after eight hours on the road, I checked the distance to Bordeaux. It was 375 miles. Never again.

How much easier and less nerve-wracking the journey is by French Motorail. Last summer we left Tower Bridge at 2.30pm (earlier than necessary), caught Le Shuttle at 4.40pm and got to the station at Calais, an easy 30 minute drive from the French Shuttle terminus, by 7.15pm (French time) with, at a guess, only 60 miles on the clock. As the cars were loaded, there was time for a meal or a drink before getting on board.

A modern French sleeper no longer has the glamour of the 1930s and is not so sleek as the TGV, but trains still offer a sense of adventure that no longer attaches to aeroplanes or cars. That is especially true for children. Sitting in the back seat of a car for 800 miles is a trial (for parents too) and jetting the world is no longer an adventure. A train is different. The pent-up excitement among the children on the Calais platform was palpable, particularly once they were on board and exploring their cabins and checking out their bunks.

This was something different, something cool. Out in the corridors there was a distinct camaraderie as families swapped stories about their journeys to Calais or where they were going in France or Spain. There had also been a distinct improvement in the cabins. For £52 we had a comfortable two-bed compartment which was much less claustrophobic than the previous couchettes, which slept up to six people. The couchettes remain but there are three-bed compartments for £35.

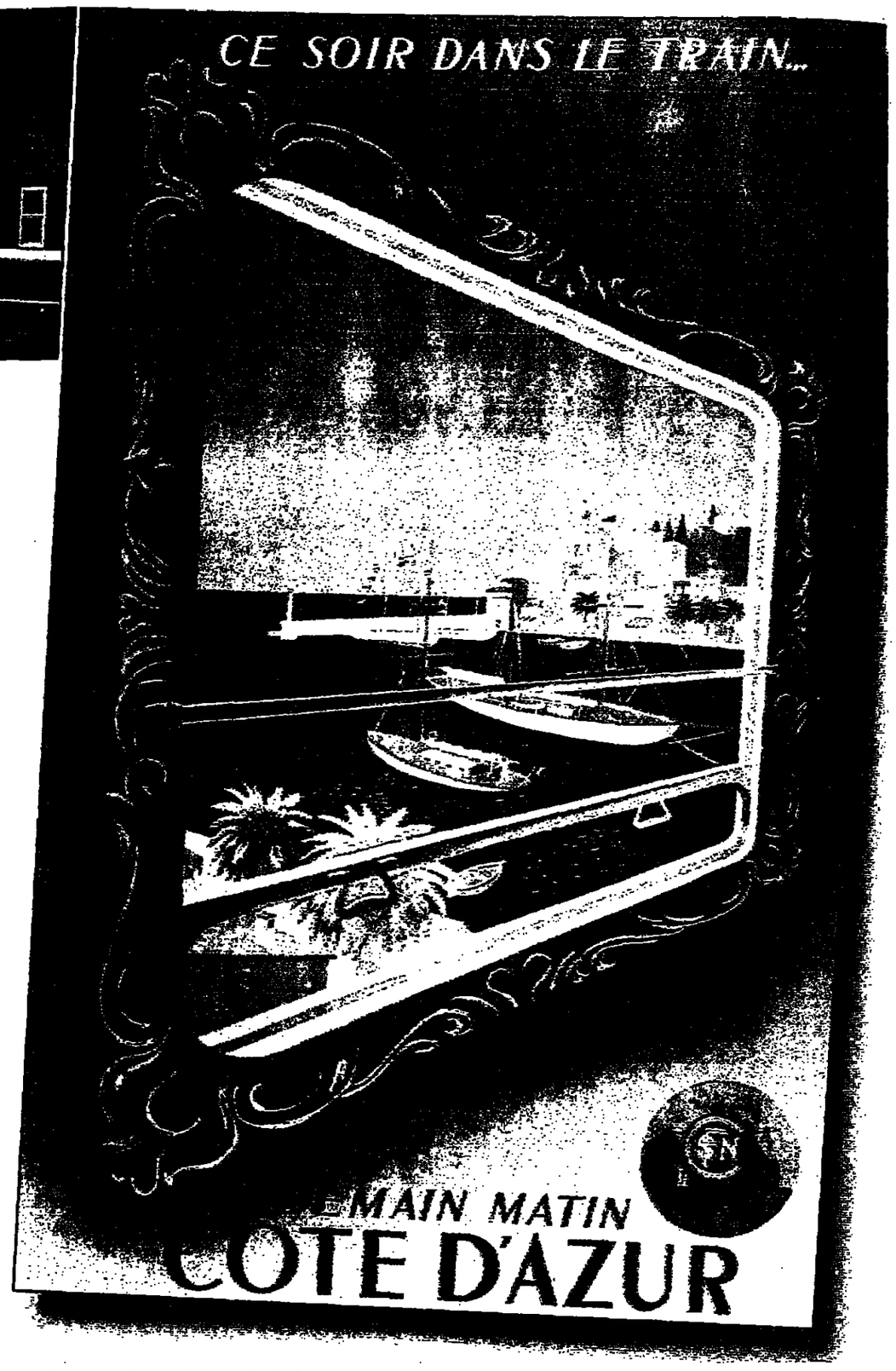
As night falls, the train sets off on its long journey to Narbonne near the Spanish border which is reached at midday. Years of experience have taught me not to trust the erratic service of the restaurant car. So take a tip and pack a picnic. There is a splendid sense of cheating the system — as well as the inflated prices of the buffet at Calais — as one eats salmon and asparagus, coronation chicken, strawberries and cheese with a bottle of wine at half the price of the restaurant car.

After a good night's sleep and a wake-up call with coffee, the train arrives between 6am and 7am at Brive, where a breakfast of croissants, coffee and orange juice is served while the cars are unloaded and the train continues on to Toulouse and Narbonne. There is also a decent shower.

Passengers heading for the Dordogne are now within easy reach of their destinations. Gascony is a leisurely three to four-hour drive with a visit to the magnificent cathedral in Cahors. We reached our destination by 11.30am, a total journey of 21 hours, with only six hours of driving, at a cost of £510 return for two (£438 in second class).

The journey by air and then by road takes eight hours at most — but hiring a car for two weeks, even a small Peugeot or Fiesta, would add £322 (see fact box) to the BA air fares of £499 for two, a total cost of about £820. At £322 for a car and two passengers this summer, the Portsmouth-St Malo ferry operated by Brittany Ferries is cheaper, takes 21 to 22 hours, the same as going by train, but involves an eight-hour drive south from St Malo, as well as roughly £250 for petrol, motorway tolls and an overnight hotel on the return journey when there is only a day crossing.

It's on that journey home when letting the train take the strain really makes a difference. After two weeks, you have become a human being again but using the ferry means driving all day Saturday, being on the boat most of Sunday, and getting home (if you live in London) by 8pm, a journey of two full days. Using Motorail, we left Brive at midnight on Saturday, after a meal in town, arrived in Calais at 7am, an hour ahead of England, and were back in London by 10am. We had saved two days and could relax for a day before going back to work.



Southern promise: tonight on the train, tomorrow morning on the Côte DAzur



Stewart Tendler found Motorail to be dirty — in anybody's language

THE DAPPER Italian controller of the couchettes was adamant. The filthy toilets and carriages in the first class section of the Bologna Motorail service to Calais were nothing to do with him. They were the responsibility of the French.

Meanwhile, his French counterpart, ready to take over at the border, waited impatiently. Unfortunately, the Italian official did not speak French and the young French conductor did not speak Italian. So as they gesticulated at each other, my wife Cathy, who is fluent in both languages, stepped in.

The Frenchman blamed the Italians, saying that the trains were always in this condition. The two men circled each other angrily as my wife translated. The other passengers wondered why they had paid first class fares for carriages that were second or third class standard at best.

The floors were filthy and the windows grimy, and one of the seats in our compartment kept collapsing. Outside in the corridor the two officials stalked off in opposite directions. Eventually the French official came back. Assuming my wife must be French or Swiss he pointed to the other passengers and confided in her: "Those British get what they deserve. They never complain. It's always like this."

At the end of the trip, passengers picking up their cars at Calais were resigned. One Briton shrugged his shoulders and said: "Well, that's the Motorail."

We have also travelled on the system in France and although the conditions were not so bad, they did not match up to cost of the journey. The accommodation is clearly ageing and the cleaning needs improving. One of the joys of the trip should be to watch the passing countryside from the comfort of your carriage. Yet the windows are often opaque with dirt.

The restaurant offers a limited menu. The sleeping arrangements are pioneer. You are given just a thin blanket to use on the seat which folds down into a bed. The staff try, but many are students working through their holidays.

Yet although the service is lacklustre, it is not cheap. For our family (myself, wife and 13-year-old daughter), the return trip to Bologna from Calais was more than £800.

It should be a wonderful way to cross Europe. It should be armchair travel. Instead it has all the vicissitudes of camping — which is perhaps why the British put up with it. They still like a little hardship and a touch of adventure.

There is no doubt that if the Americans or the Germans, or almost any other European nationality, used the system in large numbers there would be instant changes.

When Motorail was asked about conditions on the Italian route it admitted concern. A company spokesman said that a five-year reorganisation of rolling stock and service is under way. Improvements are also being made to cleaning.

MOTORAIL FACT FILE



Bedtime story: Children can find train travel 'cool'

■ Stewart Tendler and family travelled with Rail Europe (0171-203 7000) which runs the Motorail service from Calais to Bologna. Between May 29 and September 28 the trains leave Calais on Fridays and return on Saturdays. The price for car and driver is £602 return plus £66 per additional adult and £33 per extra child; berths cost £12 per person each way; breakfast is included. First class costs £670 for the car and driver, £100 for extra adults and £50 for children, couchette costs £12 per person each way (up to four people).

■ Motorail routes also run from Calais to Rome, Milan, Florence and Livorno. In France the service links Calais to Brive, Bordeaux, Narbonne, Biarritz, Toulouse, Nice, and Avignon. Brochures from 0990 024000.

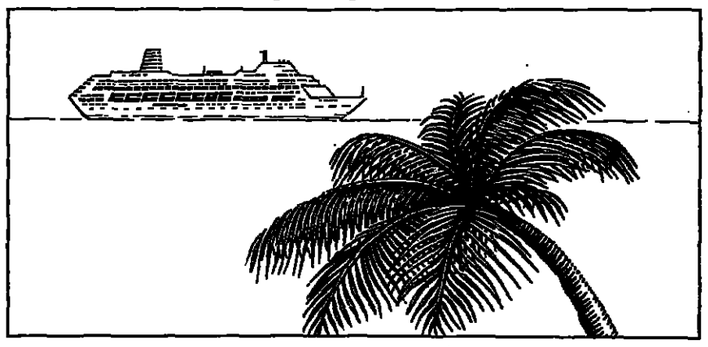
■ If you decide to fly to Toulouse, British Airways has direct flights from Gatwick this summer (0345 222111) using Air Liberté. Between July 20 and August 3, the cheapest flight is £233 plus £16.70 tax per person. Alternatively, Ryanair (0541 569569) starts flying from Stansted to Carcassonne, 40 miles from Toulouse, on June 4. Prices start at £112. You can book a hire car on the BA reservations line for Avis or Hertz. A Peugeot 106 from Hertz would cost £322 for two weeks.

■ Brittany Ferries (0990 360360) charges from £322 return for a car and two passengers from Portsmouth to St Malo between those same dates.

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New lounge axes Eurostar queues

QUEUES at the Eurostar terminal in Paris, which have frequently frustrated returning weekenders, should now be a thing of the past.

A new departure lounge, capable of accommodating a trainload of passengers, finally opened at Paris Gard du Nord station this week, three and a half years after Eurostar started service.

Previously, passengers turning up early for a train to Waterloo had been forced to wander the concourse or queue at check-in.

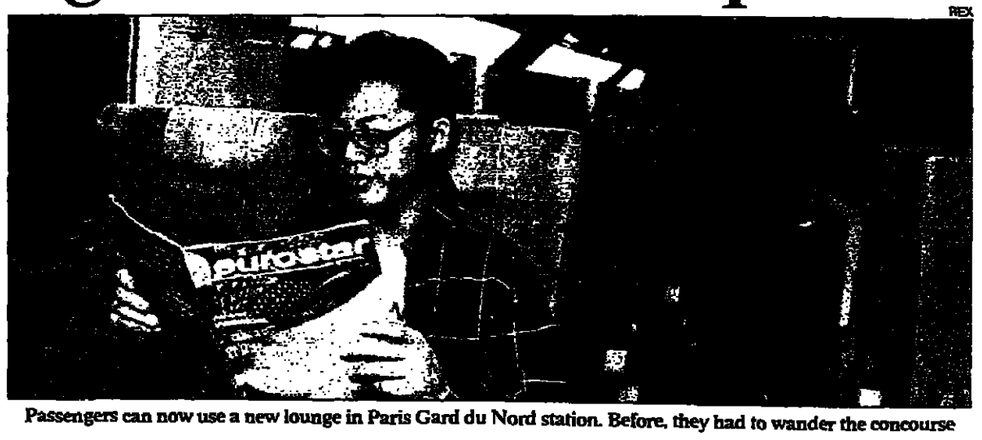
They were only allowed through 20 minutes before departure, to sit in a tiny lounge where facilities were restricted to a coffee shop and a newsagents.

Now the lounge has been doubled in size, with a perfumery, off-licence, delicatessen, ice-cream stand and chocolate shop added.

Two new lifts have also been added from the concourse.

A Eurostar spokesman said: "Because of the space constraints, French Railways used to hold people back until boarding time. Now passengers can turn up an hour beforehand and be able to use the lounge."

The revamp comes as Eurostar reports that passenger figures increased by 14 per cent in the first three months of the year, with frequencies to Paris increasing again in mid-summer to 21 departures a day. Figures to Paris have been boosted by shoppers and weekenders taking advantage of the strong pound.



Passengers can now use a new lounge in Paris Gard du Nord station. Before, they had to wander the concourse

Eurostar links have also helped the Belgian city of Bruges emerge as third only to Paris and Amsterdam in a city break table released by travel agent Lunn Poly this week. Brussels rates ninth.

While Paris has a new lounge, Belgium Railways also recently opened a new high-speed line, cutting journey times between Brussels and London to two hours and 40 minutes.

But a new high speed line in the UK will not be built until the year 2007 at the earliest.

A new cut-price deal, suggested by Eurostar UK owners London & Continental, to build the 68-mile link between Folkestone and London with less public money is being studied by the government.

However, British Airways and Virgin have both expressed a wish to operate the service. The airlines have seen Eurostar take 60 per cent of the Paris air/rail market.

BA has further suggested operating Eurostar trains direct from Heathrow to Paris and Brussels, thereby axing its own barely profitable flights and freeing the slots for more lucrative long-haul services.

The trains would operate from Heathrow via Paddington and Waterloo. The rail line between Paddington and Heathrow opens next month.

هكذا من الأصل

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Put to the Test with rod and fly

Keith Allan fulfils a dream by fishing the world's most famous trout river



OXFORD SCIENTIFIC FILMS

A large brown trout caught on Hampshire's River Test — this one fell to a dry olive, but at the right time of year they enjoy a feeding frenzy and gorge themselves on mayflies

"The coming of the mayfly," wrote trout angler John Walter Hills in his 1924 classic, *A Summer on the Test*, "is more than an incident in the fisherman's year". The event usually happens on the River Test, in Hampshire, towards the end of May. But the river will not produce the flies to order — some years they hatch early, sometimes late, sometimes barely at all.

When they do come, it's slowly at first, their striped bodies, long tails and upright wings looking a little dull. Then, for the next two weeks, millions burst out of the river, males and females, making their way to the banks in preparation for a wild orgy.

By early evening the males, their bodies newly shined and polished, are frenziedly dancing, inviting the females to join them. After mating the male soon dies while the female returns to the river to lay several thousand eggs before she, too, collapses.

It is this drama, on the world's most famous trout river, that draws the drooling, dry-fly fisherman — for this is when big, greedy trout gorge themselves, rising like crazy, slashing and sucking at the huge flies, leaving their rings of excitement rippling across the water. It is something not to be missed.

And I didn't. For three days in late May, I had the chance to realise a lifetime's ambition. I drove to Stockbridge where, at the Orvis tackle shop, I met the fisheries manager, Robin Gow. The company owns a beat on the river at Kimbridge and rents two more further downstream at Timsbury. Mr Gow invited me to join him that evening at Kimbridge.

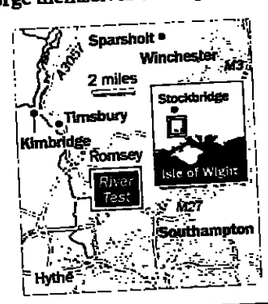
We walked slowly up the bank, looking for rising fish and found them dimpling the surface. I cast upstream, the feathered hook dropped in just at the right place, three feet or so above a trout's nose. But time and again, despite changing the fly, it passed without notice. I fished on until the light began to fade and then, suddenly, the magic moment: a fish came up for my fly and — damn, damn, damn, I was too quick in striking. All I saw was a swirl.

The next morning I travelled down to Romsey to meet John Dennis who looks after the Broadlands water. Over a glass of red wine, Len Coldough, one of his anglers, who works for the children's charity Second Chance, told me a heartening story of a young boy who had stopped talking for two years after a severe shock. Mr Coldough decided to take him fishing. It worked. The excitement of hooking a fish and seeing it splash on the surface suddenly made him blurt out in a very squeaky voice: "Hey, mister, look at that, brilliant that is."

That evening I headed back upstream to the Orvis water at Timsbury. By the time I had tackled up, a few mayflies were plopping on to the river and being snatched by the trout. I tied on a spent mayfly and cast to a rising fish.

Quite unexpectedly, he took it immediately and charged away upstream, but then everything went limp and my first trout on a mayfly had escaped. I reeled in, checked the fly, waited and moved slightly upstream. Another trout slashed at the surface. I cast again. Ready for a take this time, the fish broke the surface and I struck. Surely. Yes! The rod arched, the line went away. Its first run over, the fish tugged and splashed and a few minutes later a perfect brown trout of about two pounds flopped into the net. This was my fish! A little breathless, heart pounding, I gazed at it in the fading light, my thoughts, once again, turning to Walter Hills and what he called a good mayfly day.

"By now dusk had come on, stars were in the sky and in the air bats had taken the place of swifts. All was over. A wonderful day truly. Was there ever such a sport as fishing, or such a river as the Test?"



FACT FILE



■ Getting there: Keith Allan flew with European Airways (0191-214 6666) from Newcastle to Southampton; return flights from £245. British Airways (0345 222111) also flies to Southampton from several regional airports including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Newcastle, Leeds and Manchester.

■ Getting around: Hertz (0990 996699) opens an office at Southampton International Airport on June 1. Prices from £29.37 per day (Group A vehicle).

■ Where to stay: Keith Allan stayed at the Grosvenor Hotel (01264 810606), High Street, Stockbridge. Double room B&B from £82, single from £72. Set dinner menu £15.50. He also stayed at Lainston House (01962 863588), Sparsholt, Winchester. Double room from £140 per night (room only). Single room: £95. Breakfast from £10. Dinner from £40.

■ Where to fish: The Orvis Company (01264 349519) will supply a list of top, middle and lower range beats available from £145 per day.

■ Background reading: A facsimile edition of J.W. Hills's *A Summer on the Test* is available from the Fly Fisher's Classic Library (01364 653828) for £55.

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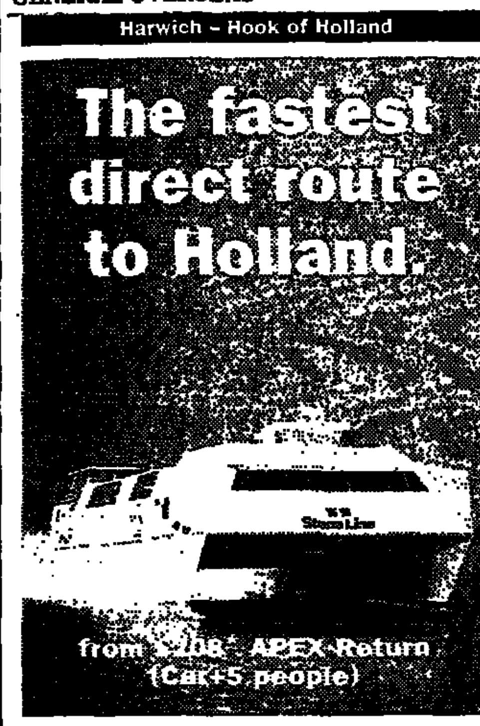
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LADIES

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ATTRACTIVE, fair haired, young 50 yr old, 5'8" professional woman - warm personality, natural lover. WLTM n/s, solvent, fun loving man who enjoys socialising. Friendship leading to romance. Kent/ Sussex area. Photo required. Box number 1316 £££

ATTRACTIVE, petite doctor, 40's, London, seeks man educated & amusing professional male for true love & romance. Looney w/means welcome. Box 1146 £££

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, independent lady, mid 40's, WLTM professional man to share walks, talks & good wine. N.W. Box 1239 £££

BEAUTIFUL in mind, body & spirit slim, youthful 48 professional lady loves life, dancing, theatre, music, WLTM kind, caring, honest, solvent gentlemen, max 53. Herts/London. Box 1182 £££

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LADIES

CHAMPAGNE Summer celebration in beautiful Hampshire countryside 28th June. 25 single prof women 40+ invite 25 warm single men. Tell us why you'd like to come to box number 1270 at £s

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DELICIOUS blonde & red-head, 30's, fit, fun, independent, short skirts & trained Bott looking for long term relationship with gentleman. Seeking tall, stylish, successful man, London based, 30-45. Photo appreciated. Box number 1247 £££

EARLY 40s, n/s, single female music, moderately reclusive with gentle figure seeks SWM for travel, opera, ballet, art. Seeks the related, well educated professional male, 40-50 for quiet, the long term relationship. London/ Kent/ Surrey counties preferred. Letters please to box 1215 at £s

ELEGANT, sophisticated, feminine, very attractive, tall, slim, blond lawyer 35mins. from city. 30's, n/s, tall, attractive, well-built professional/business man, 32 - 45 approx. London area Letter with Photo & tel no to box 1319 £££

ELEGANT leggy blonde, 5'8, 41, sociable & fun WLTM prof/ business man for lasting relationships. Photo plse. 3 Downs - London - Midlands. Bx 1327 at £s

EXQUISITELY pretty, luscious Blue Eyed, Irish rose who is blond, green eyed, in her late 40's, affectionate, tactile, sensual & sensitive, but also vivacious, sociable & well educated. WLTM a bib man between 50-60 who is kind, humorous & charming, for a lasting relationship & new beginnings. Kildare/ Dublin area. Photo please. Box number 1344 £££

GENTLEMAN partner wanted, very tall, fit, over 60, to enjoy tennis, skiing, walking, travel, opera & music with tall, slim lady. Berks. Box number 1241 £££

IF there's a handsome, humorous, ambitious, successful, loving n/s male (36-45) out there who WLTM a very attractive, creative, versatile, warm, witty, slim brunette (30) who's world interests range from cave to keeping fit, I'd love a letter photo London/SE to: 2140 at £s

INDEPENDENT busy, professional 46 year old lady with no ties WLTM similar professional man who enjoys walking, visiting, dining, skiing and travelling. 40's-50, 5'10" plus Based North West area. Box 1223 at £s

LADIES

ITALIAN looks, style & charm. Warm & lively lady with very nice figure & auburn hair, cultured, fond of the arts, languages & travel, WLTM gentleman to make her happy, must be handsome, romantic, 48-58, professional. Box number 1271 £££

LONDON based, independent professional, 40's with GSOH seeks well-balanced man to share love of opera, fine arts, travel (eg. Dublin & Buxton - but no tanks!) and relaxing in the country. Please enquire to box number 1255 £££

LOVELY Woman, cultured waste. I'm warm, genuine, sensitive, sexy, comical, intelligent. Enjoy city life and small intimacies. You are 36-45, fit, happy, handsome, confident, open-hearted, broad-minded "grump-proof" country (no pretensions) and you like me, looking for someone with whom to laugh, debate and indulge in the NW. Photo & letter please. Box number 1263 £££

MAID MARION seeks Robin Hood. Must be attractive, active, sporty, want to roam extensive Midlands from Sherwood Forest. Genuine letter & photo. Box 1220 £££

MATURE, attractive woman, 30+, seeks mature, attractive, kind, romantic, successful man, 20+ yrs older if possible. A.L.A. Box 1267 £££

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SLIM, attractive lady seeks smart, professional/ business male, 53+ with GSOH for holidays, weekends away & to share the good things in life. Photo. W. Sofia/Durham. Box 1265 £££

SURREY gentlemen - Select introductions to our quality ladies at Dorwood 01932 768106

SW LONDON, tall, elegant, widow, loving & caring, WLTM a special, interesting, kind, warm man who is ready for commitment. 47-55. Box number 1273 £££

TALL, slim, good-looking prof. lady (44), seeks male companion to fill her freetime, share conversation, dinner dates & travel. Must be fit, n/s, GSOH & not financially tied. (London/South) Box number 1269 £££

LADIES

I've finally plucked up the courage to go ahead with this ad. I'm a 56 year old, tall, attractive, elegant lady. I travel and enjoy the finer things in life, especially lots of laughter. You are tall, successful and genuine, self confident with a good sense of humour. You know how to treat a lady and still believe in love. Box number 1020 £££

MILLIONAIRE - no - just a solvent, intelligent gentleman mounted 60 with an enquiring mind & wide interests. Thoughtful, optimistic, realistic, travelled, fit, at home in town & country, seeks attractive, slim, feminine companion with future plans & wanting to share. I am 5'6", slim, pretty, practical, active, loves travel to new places, reading, theatre, cooking, music & home making. I'll turn your shirts (though don't tell my daughters!) - but seriously, I'm very capable & can hand-on-heart be quietly happy living in the country. A photo & phone no would be a nice start. Box number 1055 £££

MY Beaulieu Queen holiday is over & this attractive jewish lady with eclectic tastes including music, theatre, art, seeks further adventure. WLTM gentleman, 50-70, in North West. Box 8021 £££

V Attractive, petite, professional in Central London seeks fun-loving male, 35-45, for theatre, cinema, restaurants and country walks. Photo appreciated. Box number 1041 £££

VERY attractive, lively, professional with brown eyes and long dark hair. Age 35) seeks handsome, intelligent (age 32-40) interests include travel, cinema, eating out, skiing. London. Photo preferred. Box no: 1016 £££

WHO would like to write to a 52 year old, slim, petite woman, living in Cambridge area, who likes antiques, food, wine, country walks & also enjoys home comforts? Box No 1017 £££

WOMAN with wits & whimsy, brains & beauty, 40's, living in London, would like to dazzle with men with envy to tell who enjoys music, food, wine, mooching, researching & the Shipping Forecast. Box number 1069 £££

LADIES

SUSSEX - Optimistic bureaucrat, mid-50's, WLTM kind, trustworthy gentleman, 50-60, interested in walks, dinners, travel, theatre. SOH essential. Please write with photo to box number 8841 £££

GENTLEMEN

ARE you single, n/s (aged 28 - 36 yrs) & ready to settle down with the right person? Do you like people, travel, classical music & the finer things? Are you appreciative of good food, thoughtfulness, stimulating conversation & family life? Could a fit, attractive, sociable 42 year old, 5'7", professional male, West London based & no less interest you? Please write without delay to: PO Box 3076, Piccadilly West London, Berks, Bucks, Herts, Middx. Box number 1218 £££

ATTRACTIVE, sincere & quietly successful gent, 30, with a good sense of humour, (public school educated etc), seeks a similar lady, 25-35, for a caring & unfussy comfortable & relaxed country lifestyle & with the opportunity to also accompany on business abroad. Photo please. Box Anglia. A letter & recent photo please to box number 1340 £££

ATTRACTIVE, 6', good man, 30's, fit, kind, easy going, Indian. Enjoys laughing, alternative therapy, theatre, travel, yoga. Seeks warm, sensual & any nationality. London/ S.E. Box number 1256 £££

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BUSY Entrepreneur seeks career woman, 25-35, for romance. Please respond to box 1140 £££

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CHILTERNS based designer. Tall, Stylish cultured & rich but still seeking that special fun travel mate in the little black dress & Doc Martens. Recent snap please. Box number 1330 £££

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GENTLEMEN

CREATIVE visual architect, 40s, seeks creative, visual woman. London, South. Please respond to Box number 1101 at £s

GENUINE, classical male, 47, smokes, enjoys country walks, gardens, travel & music. Seeks younger lady for possible relationship. Box number 1225 £££

GOOD LOOKING, 6'11", ex. professional man, 40, widely travelled. Enjoys sport, long walks & laughter. Seeks similar lady, to her 30's, for good times. London. Photo appreciated. Box 1248 £££

HANDSOME intelligent, warm, sincere professor, Cheshire but still able, GSOH, likes 30s + business, flat, no, solvent WLTM attractive interesting artistic caring woman 25-35, any nationality for 'play' in the North London box 1272 at £s

HAPPY, successful entrepreneur, tall, fit, single, 40, seeks tenderer, expressed beauty yearning for fun, laughter & a little discretion. Henley/ Oxford. Young photo appreciated. Box 1238 £££

HIGHLY attached v. attractive GSOH, keen on the finer things in career, high living/ moral standards, 49 - looks 39, cultured, refined, romantic, sensual, unspoilt, educated lady as travel/ life partner. Photo please to box number 1328 £££

JAMES from Thames Valley is 40, divorced, no ties, n/s, sincere, tall & presentable semi-retired farmer with stable business, seeks friendship with warm, attractive lady with baggage. Genuine respondents & loving relationship will be given a reply. Photo useful. Let's talk! Box 1012 £££

MEDICAL Consultant, art & antique collector, 6', 57, slim, athletic (tennis, skiing, etc), multilingual, eclectic tastes, enjoys cultural travel (Pacific, Florence, New York...), theatre, music, good food & wine. Seeks attractive, cultured, eccentric lady (64-56), for long & loving countries. Please send photo (guaranteed returned). Detailed letter & phone no to box 1325 £££

KNIGHT in tarnished armour seeking damsel (Dut not in distress!) white charger optional. Tall, considerate, affectionate, amusing, gentle, privately educated, sociable vintage, with good financial security, to woo him with her quirkiness & wit. Please respond to her highness, Box 1242 £££

MILLIONAIRE (50s) seeks exceptional, delightful, attractive, cultural blonde (20-40). Brunette, cultured, kind, country lover, who loves travel, wine, bonfires, books & education. N. Wales/ Chester/ London. Photo please! Box number 1312 £££

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SLENDER attractive, quality widow sought by tall, slim, fit presentable, well-educated, widower, 60's, for special delightful good looking fit romantic lady, with a lovely smile and manner who is active & enjoys life to the full, with GSOH. A little sophistication, touched with elegance and style, who with the right chemistry, will bring back the magic & excitement I once had into a lasting relationship, full of affection and TLC. Enjoying country life, travel and theatre. Love to talk or cry-ing the dishes or walking in the Lake District, or walking in Salisbury's. Its the sharing that makes it all work, with, whilst remaining, romance, music, theatre, dancing, countryside, walking, travel, laughter and tenderness, with a refined Cheshire widower, a very young looking and active, in his mid 60s, slimish, 5'8, with a good life style. Who would appreciate a genuine reply, with a recent photo from that lovely lady allowing the sun to kiss your cheek again. Reply Bx 1202 at £s

TALL, hunky, handsome male. Humorously secure, wealthy, funny, fun-loving, sensitive, caring, 20-30ish female, full of life, very attractive, looking for exciting new adventures times. Please respond to box number 1025 £££

WANTED! Demanding confident dominant lady 25+ who wants confident gentle amateur tall dark handsome blue-eyed GI male 29 for exciting times. Box no: 4501 at £s

WHO'S for Glyndebourne? An elegant, slim, n/s, old 50's lady sought to share glamorous photo please & details of other interests (W. London).Bx: 2016 at £s

GENTLEMEN

KNIGHT in tarnished armour seeking damsel (but not in distress!) white charger wanted. Tall, considerate, affectionate, amusing, gentle, privately educated, sociable vintage, with good financial security, to woo him with her quirkiness & wit. Please respond to her highness, Box 1242 £££

SPRING is now here, with a song and a smile, and thoughts turn hopefully turning to love and tender romance. Wouldn't you like a special delightful good looking fit romantic lady, with a lovely smile and manner who is active & enjoys life to the full, with GSOH. A little sophistication, touched with elegance and style, who with the right chemistry, will bring back the magic & excitement I once had into a lasting relationship, full of affection and TLC. Enjoying country life, travel and theatre. Love to talk or cry-ing the dishes or walking in the Lake District, or walking in Salisbury's. Its the sharing that makes it all work, with, whilst remaining, romance, music, theatre, dancing, countryside, walking, travel, laughter and tenderness, with a refined Cheshire widower, a very young looking and active, in his mid 60s, slimish, 5'8, with a good life style. Who would appreciate a genuine reply, with a recent photo from that lovely lady allowing the sun to kiss your cheek again. Reply Bx 1202 at £s

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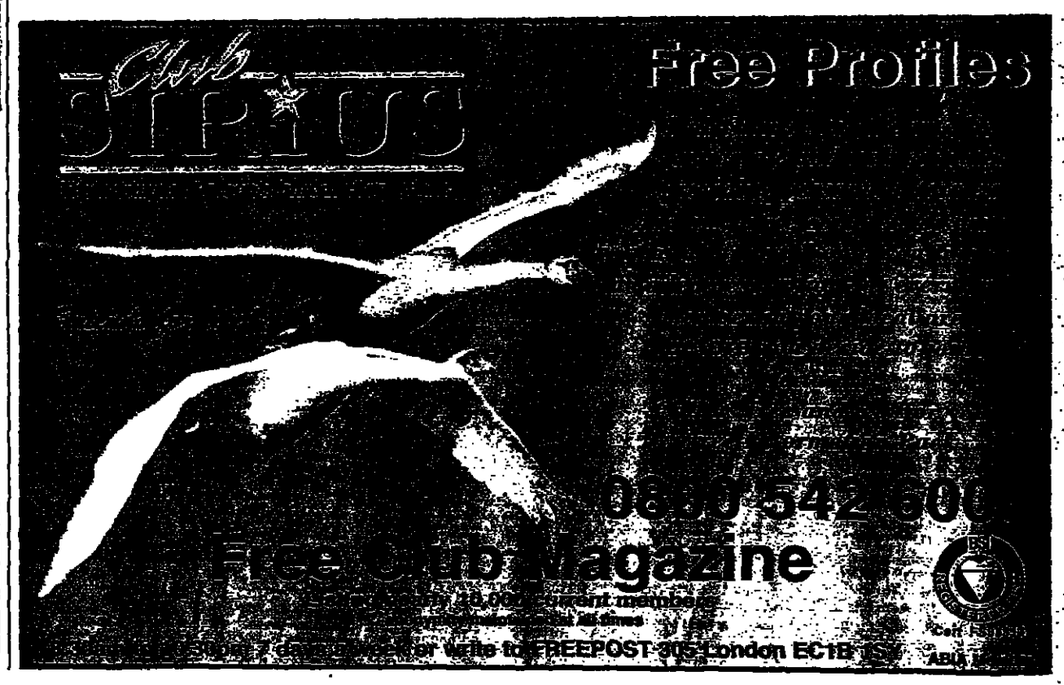
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by Raymond Keene

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White: Slavoljub ...
Black: Jan Timman
Sarajevo 1984
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 ...
Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 ...
c3 c5 6 Bd3 ...
Ne2 cxd4 8 cxd4 ...
exf6 Nxf6 10 0-0 ...
Nf3 Qc7 12 Nc3 ...

The white knight ... centside, gaining ... because of the ... White's plans include ... which would put ... ful square. The ... Black has a free ... grate on the kingside ... squares f4 and g4 ... direction.

... a6 13 Bg5 0-0
Bh4 Nh5 15 Rc1

Qe2 can be answered with ... there as 16 Bxg6? fxg6 ... arising 16 ... Nxf4 17 Bxf4 ... Black wins a piece.

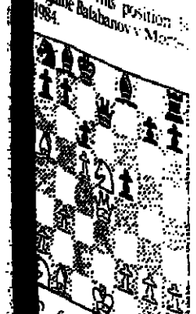
... g6 16 Bb1
Na4 Bd7 17 Nc5 Rad8 18 Qe3 ...
4 19 Qg4 Bh5 occurred ... infeld-Shachar, Israeli Ch... ship 1994. Here White's best ... Qxd4, but after 20 ... Qxh2 Bxd4 Black is certainly ... ...

Qg7 17 Kh1?!
seems a little slow. White's ... try 17 Bg5? returning to the ... diagonal, which is an ... idea. The point is that with ... on h5, the bishop has ... on h4. A recent ... 17 ... Bd7 18 Re1 Rae8 19 Nce4 ... 20 Bxf4 Rxf4 21 Ne5! Nxd5 ... Bb5 23 a4 b6 24 axb5 bxb5 ... Qa7 26 Nd3 and White ... in Umzicker-Rozentalis ... early 1995.

32 Bd7 18 Re1 Rf7
Kh8 20 a3 Rxf8

WINNING MOVE
by Raymond Keene

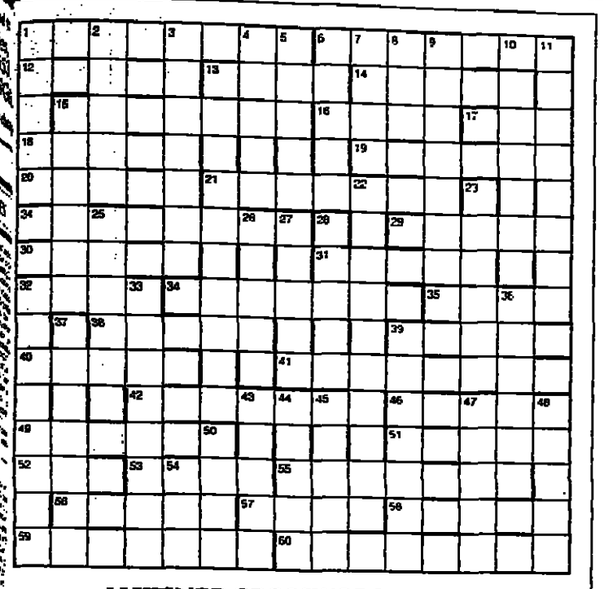
... to play. This position ... the game Balshanov v Mor... 1984.



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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3463: Trout Quintet by Nibor



IN 31 clues one letter has been omitted and must be inserted somewhere in, or at either end of, the answer to the clue to form the light. The soundness of these clues depends on the relevant letter being included. The letters read in clue order are instrumental in revealing one aspect of the theme. A further ten clues/lights are subject to a separate thematic treatment, affecting in five cases one word in the definition part of the clue and in five cases the light. Other clues are normal. Numbers in brackets refer in all cases to the length of the light as entered in the diagram.

The unclued lights comprise a thematic group (15a, 24a, 51a, 5d, 9d) and three linked variations on the theme (13d, 42a 32d 38a, 1a). *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* is recommended in addition to *Chambers*.

ACROSS

6 Trained with roc, having open space in town (7)
12 Little Indian is sought after in Central America (5)
13 Oho! In cheat there's found a peace-seeking Scot (4)
14 Maker of violent efforts with complicated transire (5)
16 Pod contributes to fellow-feeling (4)
17 Old coach gives a telling blow (3)
18 Resulting from coup code in computer rival is foiled (5)
19 Swig endlessly on sangria, for starters, lying on these? (6)
20 Bewildered by a rickety seat (5, two words)
21 Iron principle half neglected by not using the ultimate punishment cane (7)
29 Inert rear — this was once lightly cooked (5)
30 Critically examines international matches (5)
31 Clan's chef losing one to the Open University: that could be you (5)
32 Former pop group starts to be revived on sherry (4)
34 Annoying for gal to be tailed in US city (7)
35 Showing impatience — money especially god's about to disappear (4)
39 Patterned fabric — starts to do knitting after tea (5)
40 Saves space craft enveloped in gas (5)
41 Bodyguard, say, meets hitch returning with former councillor in tow (8)
46 Sneers at shoes down at heel by going back (5)
49 Support following first signs of local upheaval gets one mad in the outback (6)
52 Energy not once apparent in the evening (3)
53 Rouster being discomfited is appropriate (4)
55 Bring tools for portable loos (one for all) (7)
56 Cinders returned to local asses (5)
57 Passage from an archaic poem (4)
58 Bet tailless Scottish cows used to be attractive (5)
59 Bee describes conditions arising from this lead? (7, two words)
60 "Ou!" was penned by him in the scrub when tipsy (8)

DOWN

1 Hindu god on the up is one to the fore (5)
2 Quin outside? (5)
3 Getting one in, guts bony fish (7)
4 Musical composition murdered by donor? On the contrary! (5)
6 Former riotous earners had deities surrounding this storyteller (5)
7 Bend when losing female custom (4)
8 Bard's bear returning? No! (3)
10 Feline cats for instance attempt to follow endless downpour (7)
11 What weirs do again with river especially having lofty transport system (8)
15 How to batter wife here (6)
22 Extreme vice rarely given to the majority (10)
23 Old decomposed basalt found in pond, we hear, with energy (6)
25 With this proviso he'll include a line about sunshine (6)
26 Locations, we hear, of sea-monsters (5)
27 Elly's a rapacious person (5)
28 New Zealand native filing Maori music (5)
33 Mae in kind of font topless drunken bimbo is immersed in rarely (8)
36 Those who severely beat American birds (6)
37 Plan's objective: yen in a period of complete freedom (7)
39 Raid first with initial signs of napalm in Uganda in the intended position (7, two words)
43 Perfect fish found at lake without water (5)
44 Knell once, topless, with money for states requiring relief (5)
45 Ancient Greek would get a pain taking cocaine instead of Ecstasy (5)
47 Stirred up decaudated parrot following application of old pin (5)
48 Fabric for catching fish includes a mug (5)
50 A chilling answer giving a name for a healer (4)
54 Heartless soak in a rush to find constant lover (3)

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3463
in association with Waterstone's

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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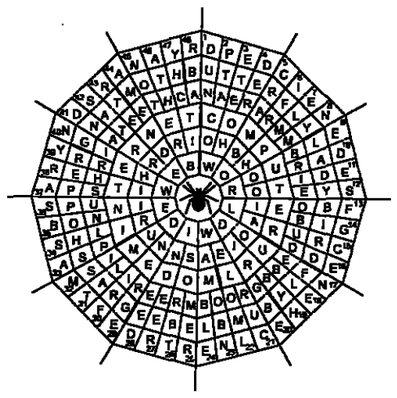
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3463, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, June 4.

W
WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10



Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in almost every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 01225 448595.



Solution and notes for No. 3460
Web by Arachne

Arachne's congenial environment is the WORLD WIDE WEB, for which she needs a COMPUTER, MODEM, the INTERNET and at least one URL (Uniform Resource Locator). The other unclued ring entries are creatures that Arachne might like to find in her web.

The winner is G. Millineux, of Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.
The runners up are S.R. Rice, of Tadworth, Surrey; Patricia K. Hill, of Seaford, East Sussex; G.F. & N.B. Dixon, of Southport, Lancashire; Gordon Murray, of St Helens, Merseyside; R.A. England, of Acton, London.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

BOB HAMMAN started to play with Bobby Wolff in 1972, and ever since they have been one of the two or three best pairs in the world. Hamman's reputation is for the ability to concentrate and perform at his best just about all the time rather than for pulling off flamboyant brilliancies.

It is amazing how players in all sorts of games make mistakes because they are not concentrating on what is important, their next decision. I was watching a snooker programme on television the other day, in which a player was explaining how he lost a final in the last frame. He said he was thinking that after potting the pink which won the frame he would call his father down into the arena to receive the prize with him. Not surprisingly, he missed it — he was thinking about the wrong thing.

The hand at the top of the next column, which occurred in a match in an American National when Hamman's team was trailing, shows his skill in card-reading.

Apparently West's double of Four Spades (pointless, as he was on lead) was loud and his opening lead of the king of spades was quick and confident. Hamman won and cashed his top hearts discarding a spade from the dummy. On the second heart West played the jack, making it likely that his original holding was QJx. If that were so, then, as West had passed as dealer, both minor-suit kings would be with East. Even supposing that you were with the logic so far, it is still far from clear what to do with the information. After the two top hearts, Hamman played a diamond to dummy's ace and the queen of diamonds. East played the king and Hamman ruffed. He now ruffed a heart and West's queen did indeed fall. Hamman cashed the ace of clubs and played the jack of diamonds discarding a spade.

Next he ruffed a diamond and played the ten of hearts. West ruffed to stop the spade discard and Hamman overruffed. When he played dummy's last diamond it did not matter whether East ruffed or not; the slam was made and Hamman's team went on to win the match and the event.

Dealer West Game all Teams

	♠1096 ♥7 ♦AQJ53 ♣A1085	
♠KQJ52 ♥QJ6 ♦764 ♣42	N W E S	♠87 ♥98542 ♦K1082 ♣K6
	♠A43 ♥AK103 ♦9 ♣QJ973	

W	N	E	S
Pass	1 D	Pass	2 C
Pass	3 C	Pass	3 H
Pass	4 C	Pass	4 S
Dble	5 H	Pass	6 C
All Pass			

Contract: Six Clubs by South
Lead: king of spades

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36

SHILLABER
(c) A decoy or accomplice, especially one posing as an enthusiastic or successful customer to encourage other buyers, gamblers, etc. American slang, origin obscure. *Shill* is a variant. "One-time ballyhoo and shillaber, proprietor of Chief Bigspoon's medicine show."

UBICITY
(c) Whereabouts. The Latin. James Joyce, *Ulysses*, 1922: "No man knows the ubicity of his tumulus."

WANDERVOGEL
(a) A member of the German youth organisation founded by H. Hoffmann at the end of the 19th century for the promotion of out-of-door activities, especially hiking and folk culture. In German literally "a bird of passage". "Some of them called themselves Wandervogel, and wandered around Europe with their guitars and their interchangeable girlfriends . . ."

SENRYU
(b) A type of Japanese verse, similar in form to haiku but more intentionally humorous or satirical in content and usually without seasonal references. The eponym of Karai Senryu (1718-90), a Japanese poet.

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 36
Question 1
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the story The Five Orange Pips.
Question 2
II. Monarchs (Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI, Elizabeth II).

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

YUGOSLAVIA once enjoyed the reputation, along with the USSR, of being one of the most active chess nations in the world so it is good to see that chess operations have once again started up in Sarajevo. This spring, representatives from Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Slovenia took part in a grandmaster tournament in Sarajevo that was won jointly by grandmasters Sax and Gozul. This week's game is a reminder of past glories.

White: Slavoljub Marjanovic
Black: Jan Timman
Sarajevo 1984
French Defence

e4	e6	2	d4	d5
Nd2	Nf6	4	e5	Nfd7
c3	c5	6	Bd3	Nc6
Ne2	cxd4	8	cxd4	f6
exf6	Nxf6	10	0-0	Bd6
Nf3	Qc7	12	Nc3	

The white knight heads for the kingside, gaining a tempo because of the threat of Nb5. White's plans include Rc1 and Na4-c5 which would put the knight on a useful square. The down side is that Black has a freer role to operate on the kingside, now that the squares f4 and g3 have less protection.

...	a6	13	Bg5	0-0
Bh4	Nh5	15	Rc1	

Qc2 can be answered with 15 . . . Nf4, here, as 16 Bxg6? runs into the surprising 16 . . . Nf4! 17 Bd3 Nb4 and Black wins a piece.

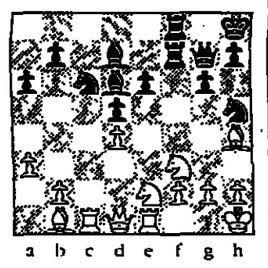
..	g6	16	Bb1

Na4 Bd7 17 Nc5 Rxf3! 18 Qxf3 Ne4 19 Qg4 Bxc5 occurred in Ivanchuk-Shachar, Israeli Championship 1994. Here White's best is Bxd4, but after 20 . . . Qxh2+! 21 Kxh2 Bxd4 Black is certainly no worse.

.	Qg7	17	Kh1?!

Seems a little slow. White can play 17 Bg5!?, returning to the diagonal, which is an interesting idea. The point is that with the knight on h5, the bishop has no real square on h4. A recent example went 17 . . . Bd7 18 Re1 Rae8 19 Na4 Bxf4 Rxf4 21 Nc5! Nxd4 22 Nxb5 23 a4 b6 24 axb5 bxc5 25 Ra7 26 Nd3 and White was victorious in Unzicker-Rozentalis, Germany 1995.

Bd7	18	Re1	Rf7
Kh8	20	a3	Raf8

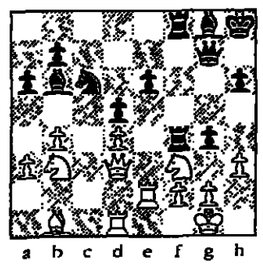


Black can improve his position before expanding on the kingside.

21	Rc3	h6	22 Bg3

White exchanges his dark-squared bishop, but only obtains a knight in return.

22 ...	Nxg3+	23	Nxg3	Rf4	
24	Ne2	R4f6	25	Ng3	Be8
26	Rce3	Bf7	27	Kg1	Bg8
28	Qd3	Bf4	29	R3e2	Qf7
30	b4	g5	31	h3	Bc7
32	Nf1	Bb6	33	N1d2	Qg7
34	Nb3	Rf4	35	Rd1	g4!



The d4-pawn is sensitive: Black also dominates on the kingside.

36	Nh4		

After 36 hxg4 Rxg4 37 g3 e5 White's position falls apart, as 38 dxe5 allows 38 . . . Rxg3+.

36 ...	Ne7	37	g3?

White chooses the path of least resistance. 37 Ng6+ Nxg6 38 Qxg6 would have offered more hope.

37 ...	gxh3	38	Kh1?	Rxh4
39 f4				

Or 39 gxh4 Qg2 mate.

39 ...	Rg4	40	Kh2	Nf5

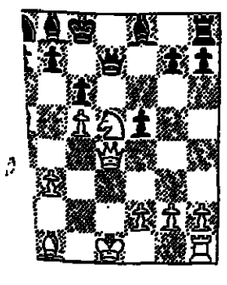
White resigns

● *From* The French Tarrasch *by John Emms (Batsford, £14.99)*

WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

to play. This position is from the game Balabanov v Moros, 1994.



Black has given up a piece, speculating that after the white queen moves he will regain his lost material by capturing on e5. What has he missed?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to: Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.
The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition:
1 . . . Qc6

The winner is Dr P. Vicary, of

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

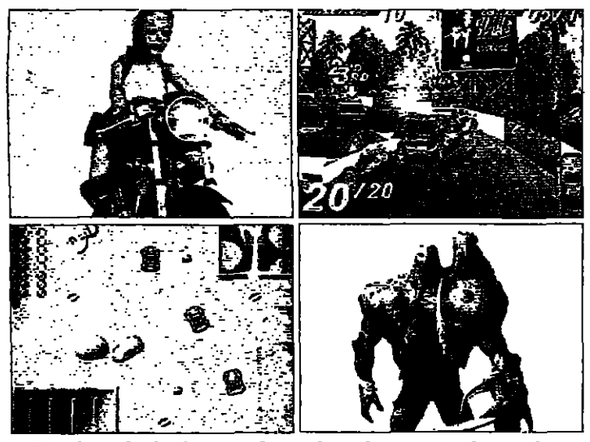
by Tim Wapshott

NOT SO long ago, the book publishing world was turned on its head when its bestseller lists were thrown into chaos with the sudden arrival of budget titles. Miniature paperback books, which sold for about 60p, seemed to flood the bookshops and sold well enough to knock the sales charts for six. The same thing has been happening this year in the games industry.

Budget titles, mostly billed as part of the popular "Platinum" range, have done sensational business at the tills. Some games are hardly a year old but, having enjoyed chart success first time around when they were at full price, have prompted a second burst of activity at high street tills selling for as much as half-price.

Cast an eye through any of the games charts, such as those compiled by ELSPA's ChartTrack, and usually ten of the Top 20 titles are budget-priced re-releases. Doing brisk business — and competing easily with such full-price products as Virgin's *Resident Evil 2* or Take 2 Interactive's *Three Lions* — are *Tomb Raider, Tekken 2, Crash Bandicoot, Micro Machines V3, Pandemonium* and *Destruction Derby 2*.

If older titles can compete with the most recent ones, no one can blame the companies for re-releasing them. But it has a knock-on effect on business. If half of the Top 20 music chart songs were re-releases from last summer, we might feel short-changed. So it is with games. It is difficult not to feel slightly saddened. Perhaps it suggests something more regrettable: that there are still not enough decent new games coming out to satisfy demand.



Play it again: budget re-releases have burst on to the market

IT SEEMS that everyone wants to get in on World Cup fever and even manufacturers of computer peripherals are hoping to exploit the event. Leda Media Products, based in Hertford, has secured the Football Association licence to make and distribute the Official England Joypad for the Sony PlayStation.

The joypad is emblazoned with the Three Lions shield and features the team colours with a white casing and blue action buttons. Apart from that, it is identical to a regular PlayStation game pad although looks can be deceptive. This joy pad is much lighter than the original PlayStation pad and lacks the neatly designed curves of the real thing. Even the buttons feel cheap and nasty by comparison with their decidedly tinny quality. Discerning users who take their gaming seriously will find the novelty of the inferior England joy pad will not last. There are two versions which will hit the shops next week. The joy pad costs £11.99 while the joy pad plus a 1MB memory card, with the shield printed faintly on the label, will cost £19.99.

COMING up later this summer will be another event likely to have its fanatical followers — the arrival of *The X Files* movie. Expected to get under way on the Internet will be a Europe-wide competition to find the "Ultimate X Phile" organised by 20th Century Fox with Line One. As Vera said in Coronation Street recently, strange things happen when you start messing about with the paranoid — in this case it should be the chance to win a host of *X Files* goodies.

Entrants will be expected to test their knowledge of Scully and his paranormal pals by answering, by e-mail, 20 questions. The first 10 people to submit correct entries will then be chosen for a UK final which will be broadcast live over the Net. If all goes without a hitch, cyberspectators can log on and keep tabs on how the finalists fare. The overall UK winner will represent the country in European finals, although the country and venue for this are still a mystery. All we know is that they will tie-in with the main event — the cinematic release of *The X Files* in August.

Coming soon is our next Cyberspace competition, when readers get the chance to share thousands of pounds worth of prizes. This is the competition for those of you who want to explore the Internet for the first time but have been put off by the many one-month trials which demand credit card details before being activated. Cyberspace Forty-Three will be open to all readers.

NEW SOFTWARE

I INTERVIEWED Johnny Morris once and he told me that he had buried his wife under the flowerbed in his garden. It was her favourite place, he said, and it was where she wanted to be buried.

This left a lasting impression on me. Someone else who is making a lasting impression on flowerbeds from beyond the grave is the late gardening guru Geoff Hamilton.

GSP's *Geoff Hamilton Garden Designer* fast became the market-leader among gardening titles aimed at those who wanted to design and plan real or fantasy gardens.

The title has now had a makeover but retains its relationship with the television gardener, although he can hardly have had much of a hand in its development.

Geoff Hamilton's 3-D Garden Designer, released next month, allows you to design a 2-D garden flatplan and then see it turned into a 3-D animated actuality. *The Plant Encyclopedia* boasts 2,000 illustrated entries, twice as many as before, and the *Plant Filter* facility can recommend suitable plants for your garden once you have chosen details such as climate and soil type or preferred colours and flowering months.

The *House Wizard* helps to keep plans accurate and to scale, while you can even add gradients if your garden is set on a slope or clings to a hillside.
Verdict: 8 out of 10. Garden design made easier. £19.99 or £9.99 as an upgrade.



3-D Garden Design

THE latest title released from Disney Interactive, the *Walt Disney World Explorer* CD-Rom, is blatantly commercial. Released in time for the summer holidays, it is a virtual tour of the Disney theme park in Florida. Using a combination of video clips, photographs and animation, it takes you on a tour of the park's rides, hotels and shops.

It is not a bad idea, but it is executed in a way that makes it more than a vulgar self-serving plug for the Disney business empire. This is simply a fancy travelogue.

It includes a map featuring every ride, attraction and, as important, every money-making hotel resort to be found in and around the Disney-world complex in Orlando, Florida. It includes the new Animal Kingdom Theme Park as well as Epcot and the Disney Studios tour. Each area is animated with a short colour video clip and an uninspired 360-degree panoramic view which runs left or right but not up and down.

The clips of Walt enthusing about his fantasy dream world are about the best thing here. Almost as an afterthought, there are a few exceedingly minor games to play as you explore the title.

This is a truly remarkable Disney experience for it is devoid of any hint of magic, sparkle or charm. It is completely bland, made even more banal by the music score's endless loop of what has to be the most infuriating Disney song ever written, *It's A Small, Small World*.
Verdict: 4 out 10. Hideous Disney

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 165

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MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q Having asked friends over for a social evening or to dinner, should I offer them wine or other alcohol if I know they are going to be driving later? I would hate to feel in any way responsible if they were breathalysed or involved in a accident. I imagine you consider non-alcoholic wines beneath consideration. — *A.J. Harris, Royston, Herts.*

A I do. Non-alcoholic wines are poor substitutes for socially acceptable and increasingly popular non-alcoholic and semi-alcoholic drinks. I suggest you look out some recipes. Do not get all teetotal with your guests. You have no legal responsibility to deny them alcohol, yet every social obligation to be a good host.

Q My wife and I are expecting our first child, and being the post-yuppies that we are, wish to have a proper birth announcement printed, rather than awful fill in the blanks-type affairs we have seen. However, we aren't sure of the proper wording, the size, colour and weight of paper stock, printing v engraving etc. — *Philip Hardy, London W4.*



A The card, which can either be flat or tented, should be made of fairly stiff board, (around 335g) and measure either 4 x 3 or 5½ x 3½ in. It is engraved (never thermographed), with the copperplate script announcement: "Mr and Mrs Philip Hardy are happy to announce the birth of a son/daughter." A small card bearing the baby's first name and date of birth is attached with a piece of coloured ribbon: blue for boys, pink for girls, and a non-gender specific hue for the offspring of the politically correct.

Q Following your answer of May 2 that soliciting cash instead of wedding presents is in poor taste, please can you advise how to respond to such a request? We have a black tie invitation to the 21st birthday of a friend's daughter and donations are requested to finance her for six months charitable work in Central America. Do we pay up and look cheerful, albeit unwillingly, or risk a falling out? — *Name and address withheld.*

A Social blackmail needs to tactfully but firmly be discouraged. Despite the charitable trimmings of this endeavour, you are being asked to subsidise a holiday that other young people fund by other means Such solicitations are out of place at an important family celebration and ignore the basic social fact that present-giving is a transaction in which the sentiments of the giver are as valid as the reactions of the receiver. I suggest you ignore the cash demand and give the girl a proper present.

Q My daughter is having a large wedding but my husband is very nervous and is dreading having to make a speech. Is there any way he could get out of this? — *Name and address withheld.*

A He can relax. Convention does not require the father of the bride to give a speech. Traditionally this role is taken by an old male friend of the family who is well-placed to give an eulogistic introduction to the groom's side about the girl he is marrying.

Q Could you please settle a long-standing dispute? My husband was brought up to believe that it shows bad manners to place one's elbows on the table during a meal. He insists on this being obeyed by our teenage children, much to their annoyance. While I would normally support my husband in the upbringing of our children, I do not see this as a matter to argue over. . Could you please provide the definitive answer, so that peace can reign at our dinner table?. — *Name and address withheld.*

A Your husband is quite sensible to take a strict line. There are two reasons: the traditional one, which cites them as ugly barriers to practising the art of conversation, and the modern reason that pre-supposes that children who are allowed to eat in this fashion are liable to develop even more unappealing, sloppy and unsavoury table manners. Surely, clever chat and charming chomping are to be encouraged in the young?

Q We are a group of students at Cambridge and are going to the Trinity College May Ball this year. The ticket says, White Tie preferred. Please could you explain the differences between back tie and white tie? Also, are clip-on bow ties a total social faux-pas? — *Mark Slater (& others), Cambridge.*

A Black tie consists of a dinner jacket teamed with trousers decorated with a single row of braid, and worn with a soft-collared shirt and a black tie. It is sported at run-of-the-mill formal evening parties. Its altogether grander brother, white tie, is reserved for the most formal and splendid of gatherings, and comprises a black cut-away coat, matching trousers with two rows of braid, stiff "boiled" shirt, a detachable wing collar, white marcella waistcoat and tie. Clip-on bow ties should never be worn with either.

● *The author is Associate Editor of GQ.*

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what was said after Gazza admitted to smoking.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to: PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 27.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by J.H. Mahy, of Colwyn Bay, Conwy.



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

SHILLABER
a. A sweet hot drink
b. A cudgel
c. An accomplice

UBICITY
a. Megalopolis
b. Pliability
c. Whereabouts

WANDERVOGEL
a. A hiker
b. The bald vulture
c. Tribal mass migration

SENRYU
a. Pickled fish
b. Humorous verse
c. Yellow-glaze pottery

Answers on page 36

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

"THE BRAIN is composed of about 10-billion nerve cells and each one is capable of being involved in a vast series of complex connections thousands of times every second. There are 10-billion neurons in the brain and each one has a potential of connections of ten to the power of 28. In more comprehensible terms, this means that if the theoretical number of potential connections in your brain were to be written out, you would get a figure beginning with 1, followed by about 10.5-million kilometres of noughts." — *The Speed Reading Book, by Tony Buzan.*

Question 1
"A man should his keep his little brain attic stocked with all the furniture that he is likely to use, and the rest he can put away in the lumber-room of his library." What is the source?

Question 2
What is the next number in this sequence VII, V, VIII, VI, ?

Answers on page 35

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

I answer forwarded letters as quickly as I can, but ask for patience if it takes a while. You can cut down the response time markedly by writing directly to me at: 1060, NE 98 St., Seattle WA 98115 (until the end of August). Letters primarily concerned with the Jumbo, Crossword Two, or Listener Crossword should be addressed to Mike Laws, Richard Browne, or Mike Rich, respectively.

The solution to 25 down in 20776 (April 27): **Head of chapter:** "A **wooded valley**" was given wrongly as BEAN instead of DEAN (alternative spelling of DENE). Apologies also for misspelling "practise" at one point — have I been Stateside overlong?

However, I am unrepentant about AUBRETIA. Named after Aubriet it may be, but if the dictionaries are happy with it as an alternative to AUBRIETIA, it's not an error in my book. I also had several letters telling me that in computer terminology K is 1,024 (2 to the tenth power), not 1,000. Strictly yes, necessarily no. It is an interesting question as to when an error becomes so common that it ceases to be an error. In most such cases, I rely on the judgment of the dictionaries; in the case of K, with a variable degree of hedging they validate the widespread usage.

Two points dealing with military terminology were raised. It was explained to me that "open fire" is not an army order — the time wasted on the redundant first word could be critical. A former naval rating took exception to the use of OR – "other ranks" on the grounds that it is redolent of class distinction. Any comments?

A recurrent query concerns the method of selecting winners of the Saturday prize puzzle, and the typical number of entries. Entries are assembled and the first correct solutions chosen at random are the winners — it's as simple as that. The number of entries is not regularly counted, but is of the order of four to five thousand.

● *The writer is crossword editor of* The Times

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I'm losing" — *Frank Sinatra's last words*

"Either he is an unbelievable athlete or I have a career as a golf instructor" — *Bill Clinton praises Tony Blair's aptitude for golf*

"It's definitely art" — *Leeds University tutor defends students who spent a £1,100 exhibition grant on what they pretended was a holiday in Spain*

"Of course it's not art" — *Brian Sewell, London* Evening Standard *critic*

"They're totally taking the piss" — *Spokesperson for Leeds Student Union which contributed £1,126 to the "art" project*

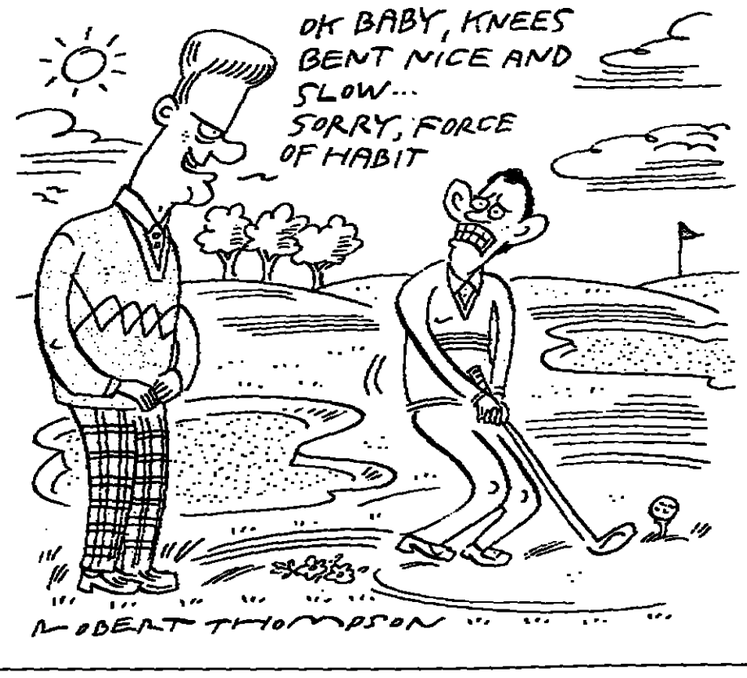
"There are some things the parents of the groom-to-be don't want to see and the bride's nipples are two of them" — The Sun *reflects on the transparent dress worn by Emma Noble, fiancée of James Major, to the Bafta awards*

"No one has asked about my son Mark who is also getting married" — *Terry Major-Ball*

"We want to do this in a balanced and sensitive way" — *Channel 5 on its proposed TV film about sadistic serial murderers Fred and Rose West*

"The stuff that happened is not right for a film. You couldn't film it — it wouldn't be watchable" — *Mae West, 24, daughter of Fred West*

"Exploit an idiot: rent a room to a football fan" — *Poster in Montpellier, France*



"I feel like a kebab with onions on" — *"Gazza" Gascoigne replies to journalist who asked whether he feels old*

"This kind of thing cannot be happening here. They must be forgeries" — *French official is shocked when British newspaper purchases genuine tickets for World Cup on black market in Marseilles*

"The lottery is now a fact of life" — *Colin Campbell QC after the Church of Scotland voted to abandon its stance against accepting lottery money*

"He made a 'phwoar' kind of noise from the ear" — *Soldier's wife describes alleged sexual harassment by an army chaplain*

"Why doesn't it shut up? Take the batteries out" — *Male response to virtual baby designed to simulate the real thing in an effort to curb teenage pregnancies*

"He is already rocking now; he will be rolling on Friday" — *Ian Paisley scorns Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble for attending Yes campaign concert organised by U2 lead singer Bono*

"The other swans seem to have taken against them" — *Keeper on a pair of "homosexual" swans at Abbotsbury Swannery, Dorset*

"Becoming a member of the IRA was 'fun and exciting'" — The Daily Telegraph *serialises memoir by Sean O'Callaghan who was convicted of two murders and several other criminal offences*

ACROSS

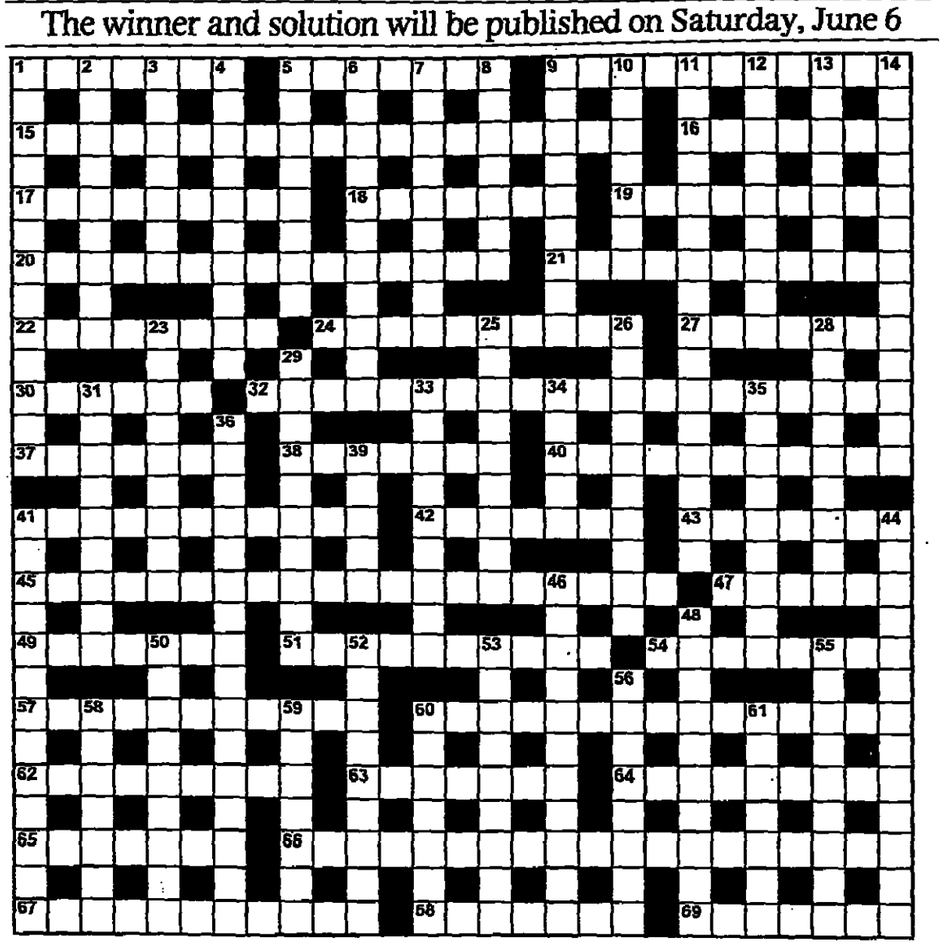
1 Hopeful wife cooked double (5-2)
5 Like parking at station, on this? (7)
9 A system for defining good taste in the local (11)
15 *Extraordinarily, display* completely firm antagonism (4,7,3)
16 Demoralise soldier, losing his head before day war ended (7)
17 Cities got bombed in vain (9)
18 Unbelievable pub assembled in its capital (7)
19 *It's catchy when female comes in* for volume of abuse (9)
20 Signal from ref bringing halt to game, brought back for a rapid succession of trips (7-4,4)
21 Clarify heartless disagreement with point of view (11)
22 *Ate in local and told jokes to* audience (8)
24 Where Frenchman embraces his girl of the evening? (4-1-5)
27 *Weirdo helping one's act unfairly* rejected (7)
30 Sleuth teased out fraud (6)
32 Unpleasantly brief description of *Hobbes's life* (5,7,3,5)
37 Formally admitted offence — tired being in hiding (5,2)
38 *Serial publication initially* lacking illustrations (7)
40 Tough chicken dish in steel container (11)
41 *Non-combatant in rear with* wound from heat of battle (11)
42 Spies catch boy embracing upper-class girl (7)
43 To make circuits round rink in reverse is very clever (7)
45 Simply expressed, like the clue to 33 (2,5,2,3,8)
47 Lily Marlene's last battle long ago (6)
49 Beetle's wing-case, see, firm in the centre (7)
51 Five points followed up by these dubious letters (10)
54 Scholar's course *absorbing* four years, only half taken (8)
57 Soft drink a poor item after beer (6,5)
60 An excellent pose at first — ease is made to be a model (3,1,4,7)
62 Antelope in rice prepared for European (9)
63 Short stockings girl put on got word of praise (7)
64 Disappears under vehicle, returning with fuses (9)
65 One supported hard worker beset by no end of hunger (7)
66 Throughly enjoying Moby Dick? (6,1,5,2,1,4)
67 Dispels fear that may arise from hopeless feeling (4-7)
68 Put right, being dead wrong about people (7)
69 A number looking comfortable about naval support (7)

DOWN

1 Fighters in confusion over shots (13)
2 In ignorance, Louis XIV didn't open present received (9)
3 Professional believer accepts scriptures (7)
4 Resentful, brood, being without money and in fix (10)
5 Leave top job, as upper classes heartlessly demand (8)
6 Notice milk bottle holding a thick liquid (6,5)
7 Majority of leaders leaving sad cult over cover-up (9)
8 More spare paint additive (7)
9 A lover who swam to receive kiss once had the world at his feet (9)
10 Criticises unnecessary equipment aboard a steamboat (7)
11 Impatient contradiction offends *nuns — 'asten to rephrase* (5,3,3)
12 Artistic piece of work, to get tap water on small boat (9)
13 Newton is comprehended by *mathematician taking new course* (7)
14 After tooth-filling involved unfinished treatment, man needed drink (5,2,6)
23 Lay out our invested money for finery (9)
25 *Some body coming to visit*, giving a long ring (5,4)
26 In principle, find new partner in race (10)
28 A wife of Copperfield's can receive love and more love (9)
29 Shred a roll for urchin (10)
31 Island town authority limits rent — nothing added (9)
33 Work clerk of court has to do — stacks (9)
34 Fix introduction for *appropriately* qualified teacher (5)
35 Dominion established by an act of *Henry* (9)
36 Game with good and bad features, which may both be scaled (6,3,7)
39 Saw strength of football *team* after one man sent off? (5)
41 Emergency structures to enable Bill to get *home*? (6,7)
44 Filled with energy, pop artist rendered tiny blob on map (13)
46 Signed at last — page author squiggled (11)
48 Where traitors met their end? There are so many stories here (5,5)
50 Holding stick, prevent rising being staged again (9)
52 Kestrel seen to turn right round *southern* resort (9)
53 Make excuses — *in next menu*, pate starters are off (9)
55 Given instrument, not hard to incite one to very big chords (9)
56 *Comforted prisoner*, said to be betrayed (8)
58 One on foot has hard work catching woman (7)
59 Pain-killer — extra *almost* needed with a hip replacement (7)
60 In South America, new name given to a girl (7)
61 *Chemical found in cold tea twice* brewed (7)

BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD 167

In our Holiday Jumbo Crossword competition, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the first correct solution to be opened on Thursday, June 4, 1998. Entries to: Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword (167), *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published on Saturday, June 6



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

Times Two Crossword Bank Holiday Jumbo

There is no prize for this puzzle. The answers will be published on Monday May 25

ACROSS

1 Penetratingly (analysed) (2,5)
5 *In addition* (7)
9 *Not good enough* (11)
15 Unlucky day (6,3,10)
16 Constantly scolding (7)
17 Uncomprehending; unfashionable (3,4,2)
18 Less heavy; a boat (7)
19 Able to be avoided (9)
20 Lack of consideration (15)
21 Descended in female line; *air terminal (anag.)* (11)
22 *Fair booth: minor issue* (8)
24 NW islands of Oceania (10)
27 (Musical) quavering effect (7)
30 Instant; significance (6)
32 Treat others as yourself (2,2,3,5,2,4,2)
37 Like an oik (7)
38 Underwater missile (7)
40 Tend to show as guilty (11)
41 Artery-clogging compound (11)
42 Britannia's weapon (7)
43 More convenient (7)
45 Difficult path trodden by virtuous (3,8,3,6)
47 Hindu sacred river (6)
49 Skirt length (7)
51 Written copy of conversation (10)
54 Current-affairs film (8)
57 Efficiently quick (11)
60 Undoing of worst USSR repression (15)
62 Shore bird: *run to nest (anag.)* (9)
63 One from Newcastle (7)
64 Rockfall (9)
65 A ticking-off (7)
66 Hide, refuse to face (problem) (5,5,3,6)
67 Perpetual youth (11)
68 Come in again (2-5)
69 Without exception (7)

DOWN

1 Quantity practically zero (13)
2 Timber floating, carried ashore (9)
3 Smoothing (wood) (7)
4 Critical demolition (7,5)
5 Rest spell (8)
6 Pedants; mediaeval schoolmen (11)
7 Fashionably compulsive (2,7)
8 Midday snoozes (7)
9 Disease-indicating sign (9)
10 *From memory* (2,5)
11 Scott Fitzgerald novel (6,2,3,5)
12 Late evening entertainment (9)
13 Easy-going, friendly (7)
14 Early photo process (8)
23 (Romantic) emotion (8)
25 Pre-Einsteinian (physics) (9)
26 Relinquishment (of high office) (10)
28 Functioning (9)
29 *Blunt, plain* (10)
31 Splendid tomb (9)
33 Subtle extra implication (9)
34 Join together (5)
35 Easterners (9)
36 I at least agree with (4,5,3,2,2)
39 Ignited again (5)
41 From which eg school intake drawn (9,4)
44 In dazzling style (13)
46 A substitute (11)
48 A remedy, drug (10)
50 *Make unfit, unwilling* (7)
52 Property, rights are transferred to them (7)
53 (Official) house (8)
55 Of bishops (9)
56 Major setback (8)
58 Pub snack; a lie (*slang*) (4,3)
59 Supervise (7)
60 Eg eye-lotion dispenser (7)
61 Unyielding; a legstone (7)

No. 66,210
MONDAY
30
MON
Cook
for ar
sales
be mo
oper
By Michael
ROBIN COOK
fresh impetus
ethical foreign
when he
agreement
Union-wide
for arms
After three
off criticism
Africa affair
sures that
has approved
military
Indonesia
Foreign Secretary
to put his
track with a
openness
among all EU
The draft
will present
ministers in
contains
aimed at
partners from
tary contracts
other member
refused
moral grounds
Mr Cook is
commercial
undermine his
of practice, but
to face opposition
which is less
about total
it comes to arms
Under the
arms provisions
code of practice
member states
through diplomatic
details of licences
been refused
sons. Any EU
then decided to
licence "for an
identical
have to consult
who had refused
and explain its
Although Mr Cook
French counterpart
principles of a code
in January, officials
added more detail, including
greater emphasis on
ness. A draft agreement
ready and Mr Cook
it will be finalised and
ed by all members by the
of next month.
Mr Cook has been keen
get the French on board
because Britain and France
are in the top league of arms
TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 45
LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
PETER RIDDELL 20
ARTS 41-43
CHESS & BRIDGE 35
COURT & SOCIAL 22
BUSINESS 44-46, 48
MIND & MATTER 17
FASHION 18
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Finland Fmk 30.00; France F
Germany Dm 4.50; Gibraltar
Greece Dr 450; Netherlands
Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg
Malta 55c; Morocco Dh 30.00; Norway Kr
Portugal Con 350; Spain Pts
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Tunisia Dnr 3,500; USA $3.50
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